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LA FAYETTE

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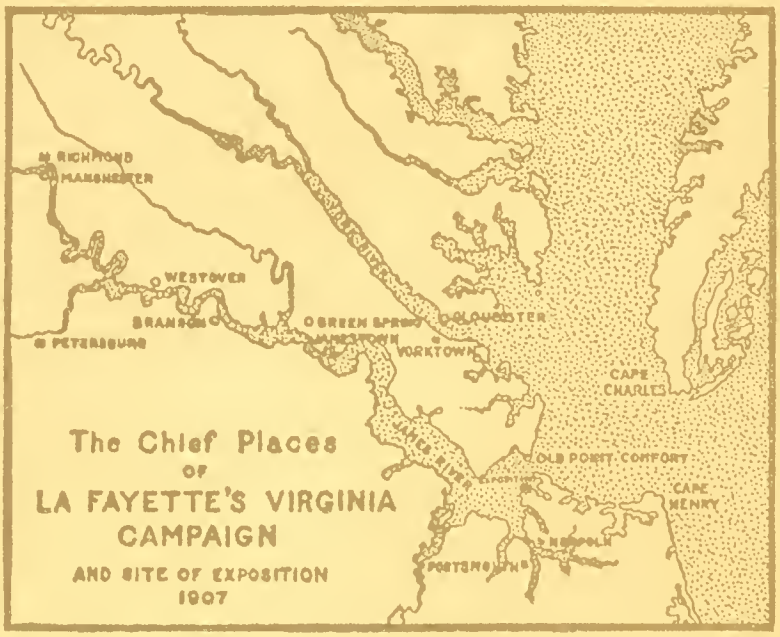

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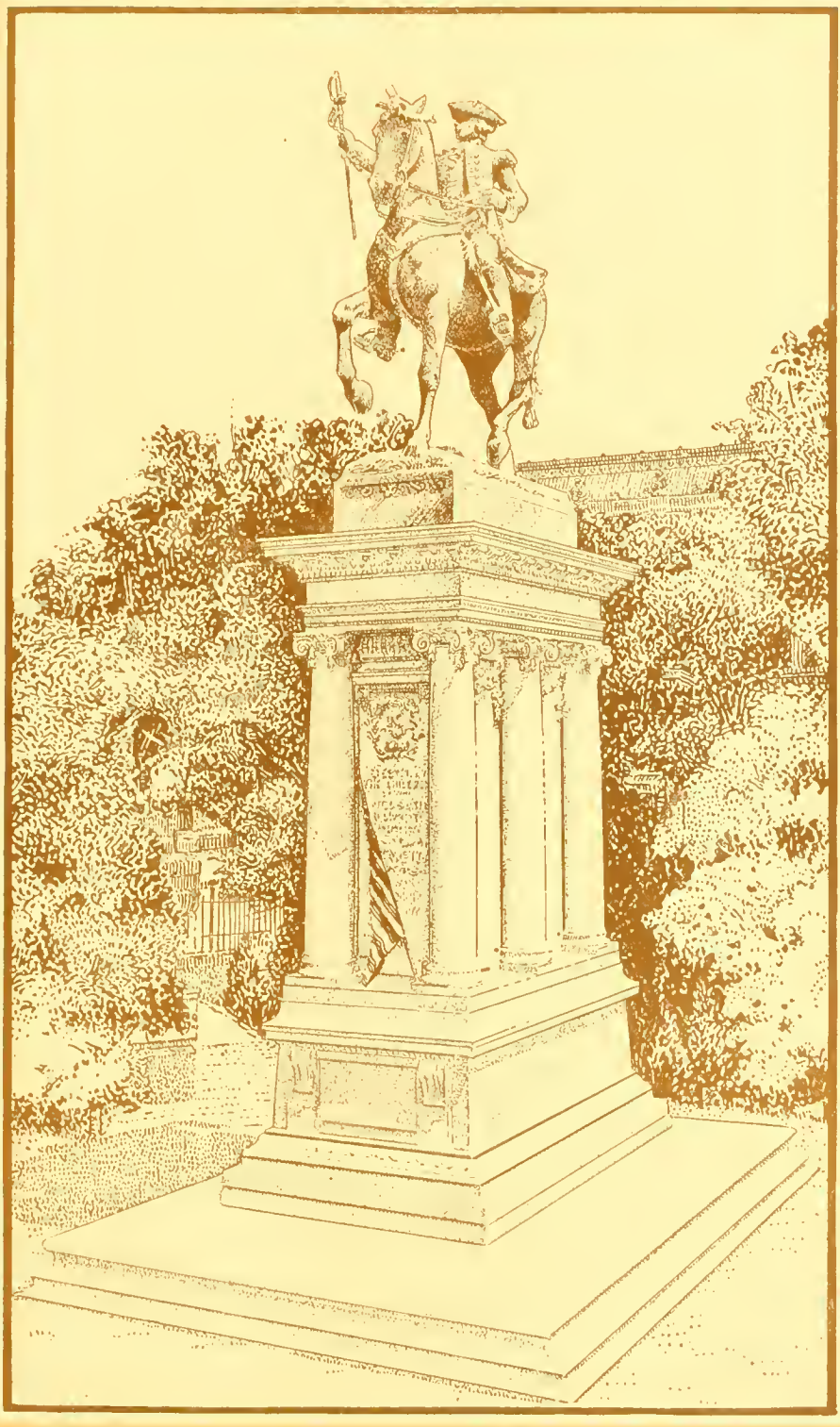
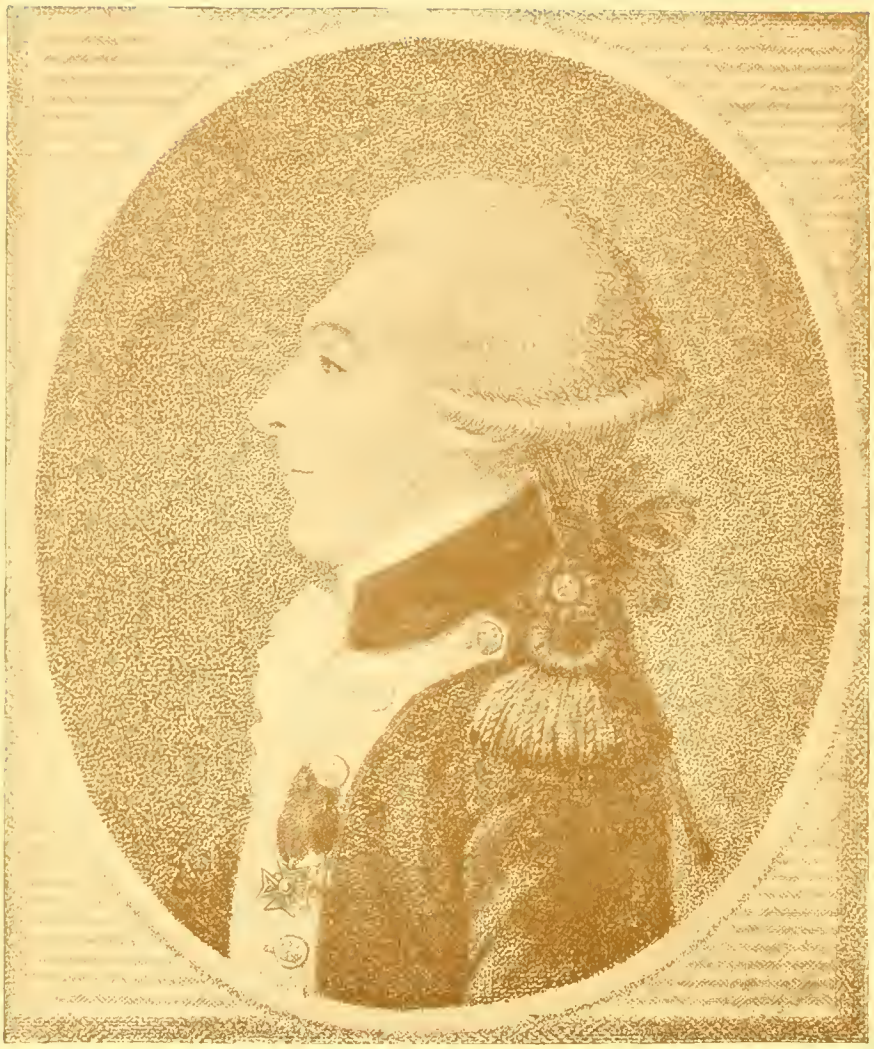


STATUE OF LA FAYETTE

IN THE COURT OF THE LOUVRE, PARIS: BY PAUL W. BARTLETT

Presented to France by the School Children of America, July 4th, 1900



Marquis de La Fayette

AN
ACCOUNT OF THE
LIFE OF

MARIE JOSEPH PAUL YVES ROCH GILBERT DU MOTIER

Marquis de La Fayette

MAJOR-GENERAL IN THE SERVICE OF AMERICA AND
NOBLEST PATRIOT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

With Illustrations of the
La Fayette Pattern of Sterling Silver Tableware

TOWLE MFG. COMPANY
SILVERSMITHS
NEWBURYPORT :: MASSACHUSETTS

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BUST OF LA FAYETTE IN THE CAPITOL AT RICHMOND

EXECUTED BY HOUDON FOR THE VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY

A duplicate presented to France was prominent in the French Revolution

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MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF GENERAL LA FAYETTE. Published by his Family

THE MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Charlemagne Tower, Jr.

THE HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. Louis Adolphe Thiers

MEMOIRS OF THE MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE. Frederic Butler, A.M.

FIELD BOOK OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Benson J. Lossing

FUND PUBLICATIONS OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 13-32

LIFE OF GENERAL LA FAYETTE. Bayard Tuckerman

THE HOUSEHOLD OF THE LA FAYETTES. Edith Sichel

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. Thomas Carlyle

THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY. 1881-1889

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. 1824

LA FAYETTE

A PART OF THE PALACE VERSAILLES

Amid the sophistry and prodigality of aristocratic France of the waning eighteenth century, La Fayette conceived an ideal of noble humanity, and at the threshold of his life consecrated his efforts and his resources to its realization. It has been given to few men of like impulses to exercise fuller opportunities or ampler means, and none have excelled him in fidelity and constancy.

Louis XIV debauched France, Louis XV flaunted profligacy before its crushed but murmuring people, and Louis XVI paid the penalty of this heritage of extravagance and oppression, in an era of passion and violence unparalleled, as it was unexampled, in the world's history. Such was the background and the field from which La Fayette emerged at the age of nineteen years to espouse the cause of American freedom, and to which, a few years later, he returned to become the chief actor in the momentous events leading to the French revolution.

Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette, was born September 6th, 1757, at the Chateau de Chavaniac in Auvergne, the home of his mother, to which she had retired while her husband, Michel Louis Christophe Roch Gilbert Du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette, fought for France in the Seven Years' War. The Marquis de La Fayette, Colonel of Grenadiers under Marshal de Broglie, was killed in the battle of Minden at the age of twenty-five, a few weeks after his son was born. The young marquis was reared at Chavaniac and educated in the accomplishments and graces that were the highest aim of the courtier of that period, but the heroic strain in his character early asserted itself, and he dwelt more on the hope of encountering and conquering the wild beasts of the neighborhood than of shining at Versailles. At the age of twelve he was sent to the College du Plessis at Paris and soon afterward was transferred to the Academy at Versailles and made an officer in the Mousquetaires Noirs, which on review days took him from the schoolroom to the active command of men.

Soon after he left home his mother died, and he became possessed of the large fortune of her family, with an income sufficient to determine a less serious character on a life of idleness and ease. He was, however, unattracted by the vicious pleasures then the fashion, and became the suitor of Mlle. Adrienne de Noailles, daughter of the Duc d'Ayen and granddaughter of the Duc and Marechal de Noailles. The Noailles family was of the highest rank and character, and its history amid the vanities and corruption of this period and the trials of the Revolution endures as a monument of Christianity, love and gentleness. The Duc d'Ayen was much in favor of the proposal, but the Duchess, who had made the training and instruction of her five daughters the chief object of her life, was opposed to the match because of what seemed to her traits of impetuousness in the Marquis engendered by the imperfect surveillance of his guardians and the baneful possibilities of his great wealth.

This divergence of desires caused a serious though temporary estrangement between the parents, which the Duke relieved by receding from his position, while, having discovered during the interval the fundamental virtues of La Fayette's character, Madame d'Ayen withdrew her objections. Mlle. Adrienne was not immediately informed of the proposed alliance, but she was brought much into the company of her suitor and fell sincerely in love with him, so that when she

was told of the arrangement she was overjoyed, and the marriage soon took place. The young couple—aged respectively sixteen and fourteen—lived two years happily with the d'Ayens, attending occasionally at the DuBarry-ruled court of Louis XV, and, after his unmourned death, participating in the festivities of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The latter soon gathered about her the flower of the young nobility, and formed an exclusive set that excited the jealousy and antagonism of the older courtiers, who prevailed upon the king to suppress their innovations. The La Fayettes were of this coterie, and the Marquis was devoted to the beautiful and virtuous Queen, who in turn adopted him as a favorite, a circumstance which is noteworthy in view of her later attitude toward him when he was forced to stand between royalty and the infuriated people.

The Marquis and his wife were now settled in a new home, gladdened by the birth of a daughter, and the Noailles family sought to establish their son-in-law at Court by procuring for him a place in the service of the Duc de Provence, the King's brother, afterward Louis XVIII; but La Fayette had no fancy for such a life, and took occasion at a masked ball, when he could appear impersonal, although he knew that he was recognized, to offend the Duke by liberal opinions and a contemptuous rejoinder, which destroyed any possibility of further association. Soon after this he joined his regiment at Metz, an environment more suited to the growing taciturnity which marked the birth of his definite espousal of liberty, than the crowding gayeties of Versailles.

It was at an officers' dinner at Metz, given by the Comte de Broglie, commandant of the garrison, in honor of the visit of the Duke of Gloucester, in the fall of 1776 that La Fayette formed the resolution of volunteering in the cause of freedom in the new world across the Atlantic. The Duke had been banished by his brother, George III, for marrying the Countess Waldegrave, and being therefore disposed to criticise the British policy, he related, with a degree of sympathy, news of the uprising in America, the evacuation of Boston by the King's troops, and the declaration of independence. The officers who listened were imbued with the abstract philosophy of free government, at that time the fashion in the brilliant salons of Paris, and the general hope was expressed that the rebels would triumph. To them, as to their confrères at the capital, freedom was an idea called up chiefly by Jean Jacques Rousseau in his "Contrat Social," a treatise on free government, which had gained the attention of philosophers of every station, and was arousing the humbler classes to an appreciation of their wrongs. To La Fayette it was the embodiment of the deep feelings which had stirred him from childhood, and had clouded his nature with a mystery inexplicable to his associates and even to himself. The knowledge of a struggling people, gained so casually, precipitated in his mind the nebulæ of unrest, and he went to the Duke and privately declared his intention of going to America to fight in its cause.

This resolution was firm, though so abruptly made, and he immediately took steps to accomplish it. He imparted it gradually to members of his family, all of whom strongly opposed what seemed a mere boyish adventure. Mme. de La Fayette was at first heartbroken at the thought of his absence when their second child would be born, and of the personal danger which he must incur, but realizing the depth of his purpose, and being fully in sympathy with his noble aims, she repressed her sorrow for his absence and encouraged him in his purpose. Her mother, the Duchess d'Ayen, also, from her own high conception of duty to one's principles, was easily brought to acquiesce, and his brother-in-law, the Vicomte de Noailles, and cousin, the Comte de Segur, were enthusiastic to accompany him. The one member of the family who was implacable in his opposition was the Duc d'Ayen, but this, while a matter of regret to La Fayette, was not discouraging. He sought Silas Deane, the American representative at Paris, and negotiated with him through Baron de Kalb, a French officer of German origin, who had been employed to visit America to report on the political situation, and who also was now desirous of enlisting in its cause. The affair was progressing favorably and Deane had promised La Fayette a commission as major-general, when it was interrupted by an order from the King formally forbidding La Fayette to depart.

France, as a penalty of defeat in its alliance with Austria in the Seven Years' War against England, had forfeited to the latter its Canadian provinces, and secretly desired to strike a blow at its hereditary enemy, but was deterred from doing this openly by the depleted state of its finances, which, through the reck-

HUGER MANSION—PROSPECT HILL PLANTATION
NEAR GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

less extravagance of previous reigns had been brought to the verge of bankruptcy. The Ministry saw in the resistance of the American Colonists a hope of punishment for England, but as it was professedly neutral it could not countenance open aid of the cause. It did, however, provide the working field for the American agents and commissioners, promise them personal security, and secretly furnish a large sum of money, which, in the form of an indirect loan, went to purchase ships and supplies for the insurgents, as they were called. Lord Stormont, the English Ambassador at Paris, kept a very watchful eye on all these movements, and succeeded in thwarting many plans, as of course his specific protests required recognition. It was because of this necessity of seemingly strict neutrality that La Fayette and his family, whose station was such that they were liable to be deemed representative of the Government, were peremptorily forbidden to take part in the uprising, while no hindrance was placed on the movements of many other officers of the French army who volunteered.

The result of the royal ban was to frustrate the plans of the Vicomte de Noailles and the Comte de Segur, who were less independently situated, and to impose greater difficulties and secrecy upon La Fayette. The Comte de Broglie, to whom, as an old and experienced friend of his family, La Fayette had early appealed for aid, had at first strongly endeavored to dissuade him with arguments as to the hopelessness of the American cause, adding:—"I have seen your uncle die in the wars of Italy, I have witnessed your father's death at Minden, and I will not be accessory to the ruin of the last remaining branch of the family." He however promised not to betray the plan and later he so far relented that La Fayette wrote:—"Amongst my discreet confidants, I owe much to M. du Boismartin, secretary of the Count de Broglie, and to the Count de Broglie himself, whose affectionate heart, when all his efforts to turn me from this project had proven in vain, entered into my views with even paternal tenderness."

As Benjamin Franklin had, at this time, arrived in Paris and entered upon the career of wonderful popularity that was destined to accomplish so much for his country's cause, La Fayette appealed to him through M. Carmichael, an American merchant who was among the earliest to go to France for assistance, this precaution being necessary to maintain secrecy. The forces under Washington had been recently defeated by Gen. Howe at Long Island, and the dis-

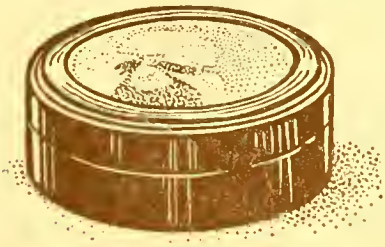
couraging news was presented to La Fayette, but its only effect was to increase his ardor, and the commissioners henceforth devoted their efforts to getting him safely under way. He had previously arranged to visit England with his uncle, the Prince de Poix, ambassador to that country, and after spending some weeks there he returned surreptitiously to Paris, and a few days later, with Baron de Kalb and others seeking passage to America, set out for Bordeaux, where the ship "La Victoire" purchased by him through M. de Boismartin, was being repaired and fitted for the voyage. While waiting the completion of this work, which was unexpectedly delayed, he despatched messages to friends in Paris, and as he received information in reply that his plans and whereabouts were known and that an officer was about to start to intercept him, he suspended the repairs on his ship and immediately sailed for the neighboring Spanish port of Los Passaje.

Lord Stormont had discovered his movements and appealed to the Duc d'Ayen, at whose instigation a *lettre de cachet* had been despatched, of which, and the accompanying letters from his family, La Fayette has this to say:—"The orders of my sovereign were only able to overtake me at Los Passaje, a Spanish port, at which we stopped on our way. The letters from my family were extremely violent, and those from the government were peremptory. I was forbidden to proceed to the American continent under penalty of disobedience; I was enjoined to repair immediately to Marseilles, and await there further orders." He complied with these commands to the extent of returning to Bordeaux, where after some days, having heard no more from the Comte de Maurepas,—as was natural considering the final orders received,—he wrote that he interpreted the prime minister's silence as tacit consent, and started, with two of his companions, ostensibly for Marseilles, to satisfy the commandant that he was obeying the royal injunction; the party drew up, however, on reaching the open country, and La Fayette exchanged his more conspicuous costume for that of a courier, in which disguise he galloped ahead of the coach to order fresh horses. At the first opportunity they turned off toward Bayonne, where they would have again the main road to Los Passaje. Here they halted, as it was feared that they would be intercepted by the duped bearers of the *lettre de cachet*, and for three hours La Fayette secluded himself in the loft of a stable while his companions, passing for ordinary travelers, reconnoitered at the inn. No danger being apparent they resumed their journey and met with no mishap until they reached the village of Saint Jean de Luz, where, in spite of his assumed character, La Fayette was recognized by the innkeeper's daughter—who evidently had a keen eye for youth of the other sex—as a young man who had passed in a carriage a few days before. Her discretion was equal to her acumen, however, as at a sign from the pretended courier, she dissembled her surprise, and the horses being changed, the absconders continued unmolested. Soon afterward the over trustful officers rode hastily up to the inn and inquired of the girl if such a carriage had passed, but her sympathies were with the young stranger, and without falsehood she told them that she had seen the carriage but that the person described was not in it. The pursuers returned and this young woman, all unconscious of the importance of the act, proved the pivot on which hung, for this expedition at least, the fortunes of La Fayette in America. On the twentieth of April, 1777, "La Victoire" set sail from Los Passaje, and with more good luck than her condition or armament warranted, reached the coast of South Carolina after a two months' voyage, in spite of storms and hostile ships. After recovery from the seasickness which affected him severely, La Fayette spent much of his time on the tedious passage in writing letters of tender regret to his wife—whose situation and condition touched him deeply—at the necessity of parting from her so ungallantly, expressing his unbounded love and solicitude, which was only inferior to the duty he felt in behalf of a struggling people; and also in the study of the English language and military tactics. The ship had cleared for the West Indies and the captain, having secretly embarked a considerable venture of his own, was determined to go there and was only dissuaded by a promise of indemnity if the vessel was seized, and a threat to put the mate in charge if he further insisted. When near the coast they were intercepted by a cruiser and La Fayette resolved to blow up the vessel rather than surrender, but their alarm was needless as the other proved to be an American privateer and left them unmolested. The party were anxious to land as soon as possible, so the ship was headed directly for the shore and

anchored, as it proved, near North Island, at the entrance of Winyah Bay. Although it was late in the evening a small boat was launched and they proceeded up the bay until a welcome light indicated a friendly roof. Its nearer aspect was doubtful, however, as dogs set up violent barking and the inmates, fearing a raid from a British war ship, were slow to receive the travelers. After a parley between a voice from an upper window and Baron de Kalb, who spoke a little English, the door was thrown open and La Fayette and his companions were cordially welcomed to the home of Major Benjamin Huger of the Continental Army.

The goal of his absorbing ambition was now at hand, and no better description of his enthusiasm and gratification can be given than these extracts from his first letters to his wife:—"I have arrived, my dearest love, in perfect health at the house of an American officer; and, by the most fortunate chance in the world, a French vessel is on the point of sailing; conceive how happy I am. I am going this evening to Charleston, from whence I will write to you. * * * * * I shall now speak to you, my love, about the country and its inhabitants, who are as agreeable as my enthusiasm had led me to imagine. Simplicity of manner, kindness of heart, love of country and of liberty, a delightful state of equality are met with universally. The richest and the poorest man are completely on a level; and although there are some immense fortunes in this country, I may challenge any one to point out the slightest difference in their respective manner towards each other. I first saw and judged of a country life at Major Huger's house. I am at present in the city, where everything somewhat resembles the English customs, except that you find more simplicity here than you would in England. Charleston is one of the best built, handsomest, and most agreeable cities that I have ever seen. The American women are very pretty, and have great simplicity of character; and the extreme neatness of their appearance is truly delightful; cleanliness is everywhere even more studiously attended to here than in England. What gives me most pleasure is to see how completely the citizens are all brethren of one family. In America there are none poor and none even that can be called peasants. Each citizen has some property, and all citizens have the same rights as the richest individual, or landed proprietor in the country. The inns are very different from those of Europe; the host and hostess sit at table with you and do the honors of a comfortable meal; and when you depart you pay without being obliged to beat them down. If you dislike going to inns you may always find country houses in which you will be received, as a good American, with the same attention that you might expect in a friend's house in Europe. * * * * From the agreeable life I lead in this country, from the sympathy which makes me feel as much at ease with the inhabitants as if I had known them for twenty years, the similarity between their manner of thinking and my own, my love for glory and for liberty, you may imagine that I am very happy: but you are not with me, my dearest love; * * * * Embrace most tenderly my Henriette: may I add, embrace our children? The father of these poor children is a wanderer, but he is, nevertheless, a good husband also, for he loves his wife most tenderly. * * * * Adieu, then, my dearest love; * * * The night is far advanced, the heat intense, and I am devoured by mosquitoes; but the best countries, as you perceive, have their inconveniences."

La Fayette and his companions had nine hundred miles to travel to present themselves before Congress at Philadelphia and they set out in good style with horses and carriages that he purchased, but various mishaps reduced them to the necessity of mounting the horses, and he wrote Madame de La Fayette that he expected to "finally arrive on foot." They were much impressed by the virgin grandeur of the scenery, which was in notable contrast to the poor farms of their own country, and traveling this way for a month, which included a visit to the Governor of North Carolina and short stops at Petersburg and Annapolis, they arrived at their journey's end.



LA FAYETTE SNUFF BOX
Metropolitan Art Museum
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Congress was out of patience with the innumerable foreign officers who had come over with promises and credentials from Silas Deane, and high expectations of preferment in the army, and at first no

attention was paid to the letters presented by La Fayette. The great majority of the applicants were adventurers or worse, and some of those that had been commissioned had given unending trouble. They hardly opened La Fayette's papers, and the next day when he came to learn the result, he was met by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to whom he had intrusted his case, with very discouraging tidings. Suspecting the true state of affairs, he showed no resentment but wrote this note, which he requested Mr. Lovell, his intermediary, to read before Congress:—"After the sacrifices I have made, I have the right to exact two favours; one is to serve at my own expense,—the other is, to serve at first as volunteer." This astonishing humility and public spirit attracted the desired attention and his dispatches from the envoys were read, with the result that in a very flattering resolution he was given a commission as major-general. Franklin had written in a most appreciative strain of the young man's character, influence and connections, and urged his appointment, at the same time prudently delaying a letter which the envoys were directed to write, by the court of France, requesting that he should not be employed. After his own appointment he used his influence in favor of de Kalb, who was granted a similar commission retrospectively dated, like La Fayette's, July thirty-first; of the remainder of his party some were later accepted, and he relieved the disappointment of the others by gifts from his own purse.

The English under General Howe and Admiral Howe having appeared before the Delaware Capes, Washington came to Philadelphia early in August and at a dinner tendered the Commander-in-chief La Fayette was presented to him. "Although he was surrounded by officers and citizens, it was impossible to mistake for a moment his majestic figure and deportment. * * * * Invited by the General to establish himself in his house, he looked upon it from that moment as his own; with this perfect ease and simplicity was formed the tie that united two friends, whose confidence and attachment were to be cemented by the strongest interests of humanity." (La Fayette's Memoirs.) This immortal friendship was, in the trying years that followed, a source of great solace to both; the one finding a sincere and self-forgetting friend, loyal under every condition, and the other a hero and guardian whom he worshiped as a soldier and as a man.

La Fayette's commission carried no assignment and Washington offered him a place on his staff, which was joyfully accepted. Together they visited the fortifications and the camp at Annapolis where the pitiful aspect of the poorly equipped and half disciplined troops elicited a half apologetic observation from the General on their contrast to the army to which his companion was attached in France, but La Fayette's only reply, "I am here to learn, and not to teach," was indicative of his earnest and modest attitude and at once endeared him to his commander. La Fayette noted the motley and tattered uniforms, of hunting shirt and gray linen coat at the best, and the awkward and unscientific manœuvres, but he also saw and appreciated the intense patriotism of the men and zealous enthusiasm of the officers. He soon found himself a participant in active operations, as the British, although appearing to withdraw after menacing the Delaware, soon returned by the way of Chesapeake Bay and Elkton.

The forces opposed each other gallantly at Chadd's Ford and Brandywine Creek, and after a hard and well planned contest lasting all day and entailing severe losses, the enemy was victorious and the Americans fell back on Chester and later Philadelphia, which, as Washington was unsuccessful in an attempt to again engage Howe, they abandoned, in a few days, to protect their stores at Reading. The British marched on Philadelphia and occupied it, surprising and routing General Wayne, who had been left with fifteen hundred men to check their advance, Congress fleeing to Lancaster and York. At the battle of Chadd's Ford, La Fayette, seeking the thickest action, secured permission to join the right wing under General Sullivan and in a spirited action during which Lord Cornwallis concentrated his attack upon the division to which he had attached himself, he was wounded by a ball in the leg and in the retreat would have been unable to mount his horse but for the assistance of Captain Gimat, his aide-de-camp and friend. He undertook to join Washington, who had arrived with fresh troops, but became so weak from loss of blood that he was obliged to stop and have his leg bandaged, and narrowly escaped capture. He reached Philadelphia by water and had his wound dressed, after which he was taken to the peace-

HOUSE AT CHADD'S FORD
LA FAYETTE'S HEADQUARTERS

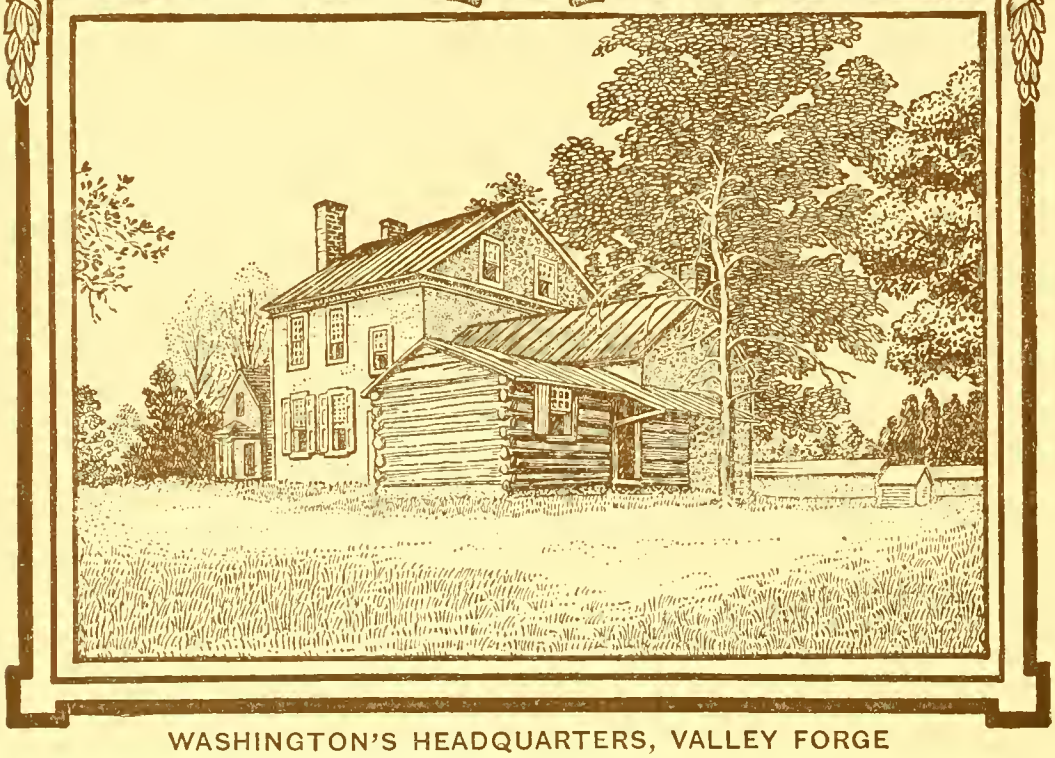
ful Moravian settlement at Bethlehem, to recuperate. Although he treated the matter very lightly in letters to his wife, he was confined to his bed for six weeks during which he suffered severely. The Moravian Brothers cared for him with great kindness and endeavored to turn his mind from warlike thoughts, but he spent much of his time in writing—the only employment possible—plans for auxiliary campaigns which were never carried out, although it was subsequently learned that they were thought well of by the French authorities to whom they were addressed.

Washington in the meantime had returned from Reading and engaged the British at Germantown, but the advantage continued against him and after the loss of Forts Mifflin and Mercer on the Delaware river, which held out long and bravely against the English ships and sunk a good part of the fleet, he gave up the hope of retaking Philadelphia and withdrew to Whitemarsh, from whence he soon went into the memorable winter quarters at Valley Forge.

La Fayette's impatience to be again at the front caused him to leave Bethlehem as soon as he could walk about, and long before his wound had healed or could be covered by a boot. In this condition he joined Washington at Whitemarsh, and, seeing an opportunity for active service in the movements to check Cornwallis in New Jersey, he joined General Greene as volunteer and at Mount Holly was put in charge of a small detachment to reconnoitre. He discovered Cornwallis about to cross the river at Gloucester, and taking his men to a commanding but dangerous position at Stony Point he immediately engaged a superior force of Hessians and drove them steadily back with severe losses, in spite of reinforcements led by Cornwallis himself. He had but three hundred men and many of them had marched all day without food, but in his report to General Washington he speaks most highly of their spirit and ability, while the men were equally appreciative of the daring and skill of their commander on this occasion. La Fayette admitted that his escape from annihilation was due largely to errors of judgment on the part of the enemy, who overestimated the strength of the attacking force, but as it was successful the affair added much to his reputation and popularity.

This action was unimportant, as, on arriving, Greene decided to abandon the position and Cornwallis crossed the river the next day; but the real fighting ability shown by one who, many thought, held only a nominal commission as a compliment to his enthusiasm and connections, aroused a general desire to see him in charge of an independent command, and acting on Washington's recommendation to this effect, Congress resolved that he be placed at the head of a division, on which Washington appointed him to the Virginia Militia to succeed General Stephen. Howe gained no advantage from Cornwallis' passage of the Delaware, as, after joining the latter, he made no advance until Greene had effected a junction with Washington and then his tentative movements indicated a hesitance to attack, which was confirmed soon afterward by his withdrawal to Philadelphia, in which comfortable city he settled down for the winter.

The capture of Burgoyne's splendid army in the North raised the courage and the credit of the country, and the news of it, borne across the ocean, determined the French alliance, without which the triumph of the American cause would



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, VALLEY FORGE

VIEW FROM THE REAR

have been impossible. The self-interest upon which the Government must justify its success was embodied in sincere kindness, and the French people, captivated by Franklin, were unbounded in their sympathy, while the large loans granted by the Ministry when they hardly knew where to turn for Court expenses, were the very sinews of war to the patriots.

At Valley Forge, Washington's wretched army lay starving and freezing in pitiful contrast to the British soldiers, who, only twenty-two miles away, reveled in luxury. La Fayette remained with his troops and shared their privations, which he keenly deplored, though in spite of these their patriotism was little abated. While Washington was here suffering poignantly with his men, a clique of officers led by Conway, an Irishman who had been in the French service, sought to undermine his position as head of the forces and supersede him by Gates, who had been made president of the Board of War as a reward for his part in the capture of Burgoyne, the report of which, ignoring Washington, he had transmitted directly to Congress. The country and Congress were divided by parties holding diverse opinions on the conduct of the war, and this situation secured a backing for the conspirators which promised success to their plan. Appreciating La Fayette's popularity and his influence abroad they saw the necessity of depriving Washington of his company and counsel, and they contrived an elaborate plan to seduce him from his allegiance to his beloved friend. Congress authorized the formation of an "Army of the North" for the purpose of destroying the British shipping on Lake Champlain and subsequently attacking Montreal. It was provided in the act that the expedition, having twenty-five hundred men and ample funds and equipment, should be commanded by La Fayette with Generals Conway and Stark for lieutenants, and he received information to this effect through Washington, with instructions to repair at once to Albany and there await further orders.

Washington, although heavy hearted, advised him to accept the position, but La Fayette, on realizing that its direct responsibility to the Board of War carried an affront to the Commander-in-chief, determined to refuse it, and only modified his decision at the earnest solicitation of his friend, who declared that as the place had been created he preferred that he should accept it. La Fayette, however, deferred acquiescence until he had visited headquarters at York and secured further concessions of funds and trustworthy officers; and while there at a dinner

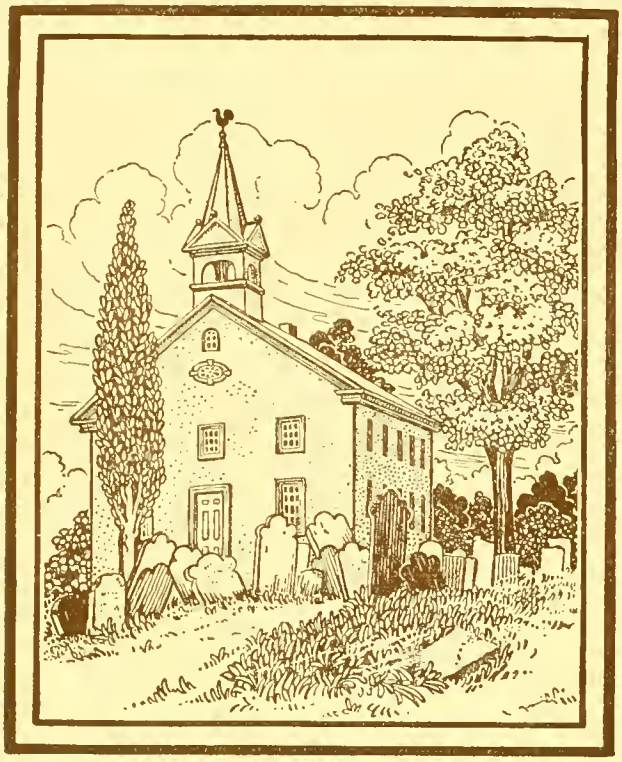
of the conspirators he created consternation by obliging them to drink a toast to the health of the Commander-in-chief whose ruin they were plotting.

Finding that the scheme was a failure in respect to its main purpose, the Board of War lost interest in it, and when, after a toilsome and hazardous journey, La Fayette arrived at Albany he found less than half the promised number of men, and entirely inadequate preparation. Conway immediately declared the project impossible, but La Fayette, mindful of the responsibility of his position and the benefit which would result from success, only decided to abandon it when, after waiting in vain for necessary supplies, the lateness of the season precluded the passage of Lake Champlain on the ice. His presence at Albany was not wholly without fruits, however, as he used such money as he received in relieving the distress of his men and allaying their discontent by partial payment of overdue wages, and also spent much of his time in strengthening neighboring fortifications and endeavoring to offset British influence among the Indians who—with the exception of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras—while remaining favorable to their more munificent suitors, treated him with great respect and gave him the name of "Kayoula," formerly borne by a lamented chief, by which he was afterward known among them.

Soon after La Fayette's departure from Valley Forge, Washington became possessed of incriminating evidence against eminent members of the Cabal, and in the resulting discussion this reached the ears of Congress and created such widespread indignation that the malcontents hastened to repudiate their connection with the intrigue. The possibility of such treason was, however, too serious a menace to pass unnoticed, and Congress made use of the occasion to prescribe for the officers of the army a new oath of allegiance which La Fayette, on returning from his conference with the Indians, was called upon to administer. When, in spite of his regrets for the failure of his expedition, which he feared would humiliate him before the world notwithstanding his obvious blamelessness, he had finally abandoned it and prepared to return, Congress, persuaded of its futility, recalled him to the South in a flattering dispatch calculated to exonerate him from the stigma. He rejoined Washington and was employed in further administering the new oath when the news was received that France had acknowledged the independence of the United States and concluded a treaty of commerce and alliance. The whole country rejoiced at the consummation of this great triumph of Franklin's diplomacy, and at Valley Forge, where the hardships of the cause had been most cruelly experienced, the joy was especially marked. La Fayette's happiness at the realization so long hoped for was deeply clouded by intelligence of the death of his beloved daughter Henriette, brought by the same vessel that bore the treaty, and thus, with his thoughts far across the ocean with his stricken wife, he was obliged to take part in the celebration of the nation's thankfulness amid salvos of artillery and congratulatory toasts.

The English government had made advances toward peace which had been spurned by Congress, because they looked only to a cessation of hostilities and promised no recognition of independence, but now that France had virtually declared war, it was thought necessary to strengthen their holdings in this country. Sir William Howe, who had remained comfortably in Philadelphia all winter, was recalled and Sir Henry Clinton was sent to take his command. Amid the preparations for the elaborate and ridiculous "Mischianza" which was to mark Lord Howe's withdrawal, Washington, who had reason to think that the British would leave Philadelphia, sent La Fayette with two thousand chosen men across the Schuylkill to watch the enemy.

Since the suppression of the Conway Cabal, the Board of War had been superseded by General Greene who as quartermaster general had placed the army on an excellent working footing; it had also been increased by new recruits and most assiduously drilled by Baron Steuben, an accomplished Prussian officer, who arrived early in the spring. It was therefore with high hopes that Washington looked forward to intercepting Clinton when he should undertake to join his army at New York. A council of war ordered by Congress had decided, however, on a defensive campaign, and La Fayette was cautioned to exercise great care in the preservation of his command. He left Valley Forge on the eighteenth of May, and, crossing the river at Swede's Ford, took up a position at Barren Hill, twelve miles from the main army and effectively commanding the roads from Phila-



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BARREN HILL, PA.
A POINT OF VANTAGE FOR LA FAYETTE'S ARMY

delphia, which was about equally distant. His camp was upon high ground abruptly sloping to the Schuylkill in the rear, and he placed a body of Pennsylvania militia under General Patten to the front and left to guard against surprise from the direction of Whitemarsh, while pickets were advanced on either side to warn him of approach in these directions. In the immediate vicinity a stone church and several substantial stone houses offered protection in the event of an engagement, and in this situation, admirably chosen, he remained until the morning of the twentieth, seeking the information for which he was detached. In the meantime the British, in the midst of their revelry, learned of his proximity, and lightly estimating his force and skill, sent out a detachment to bring him in as a climax to their festivities, Lord Howe in his confidence inviting a party to meet the marquis at his house the next evening, while Admiral Howe prepared a frigate to receive him. On the morning of the twentieth, having ample troops, five thousand were sent around to cut off his retreat at Swede's Ford, and two divisions of two thousand each were sent against him from different directions at the front, thus apparently surrounding him and rendering his escape impossible.

La Fayette was giving instructions to a young woman, who, on the pretext of visiting relatives, was to go to Philadelphia in his interest, when information was brought of red-coats on the Whitemarsh road, but as a portion of the militia under General Patten had uniforms of that color this excited no alarm. Nevertheless he immediately sent scouts to learn the truth of this inference, and they soon reported that a column of the enemy was advancing on his left and that another body was passing up the road to Swede's Ford. Almost at the same moment it was learned that a third division was approaching on the Ridge road, the direct route from Philadelphia by the bank of the Schuylkill, on which the camp was located. The situation was alarming and created consternation among the troops, to whom it appeared that every avenue of escape was cut off—as General Clinton and Lord Howe certainly intended they should be. La Fayette, while fully appreciating the seriousness of his position, was in no wise distracted, and his immediate and decisive orders inspired a return of confidence in his men. This predicament was entirely due to some inexplicable remissness of his outlying militia, but there yet remained an avenue of escape if the British on the Swede's Ford and Whitemarsh roads could be delayed, and La Fayette unhesitatingly availed himself of this possibility.

Somewhat parallel to the Swede's Ford road and nearer to Barren Hill was one leading to Matzon's Ford, less known and used. Soon after leaving the hill this entered a ravine and was still further concealed by woods in the direction of the enemy. Just before reaching the ford it was intersected by a connecting road from the main thoroughfare, and the success of La Fayette's plan lay in passing this point before his debouchment should be discovered, as it was somewhat nearer the British lines than his own. To accomplish this he quickly posted a defensive party behind the stone wall of the churchyard to guard against attack by General Grey, who occupied the road from Germantown; he then

despatched a number of false heads of columns to appear at intervals through the woods to the westward, to convey to General Grant, who menaced Matzon's Ford, the impression that a line of columns was emerging to engage him. This ruse was successful and was the salvation of Lafayette, who, while General Grant was manœuvering before the imagined army, was rapidly sending his troops, under General Poor, down the road to the ford, and when these had safely passed he brought up in the rear with the skirmishers, reaching the west bank of the Schuylkill in safety just as the British, who tardily discovered the deception, arrived at the river. At Barren Hill, the divisions under Generals Grey and Clinton met in confusion where they expected to find their quarry. Their consternation was enlivened by recriminations between the commanders, and in a very crestfallen state they returned to Philadelphia, being unwilling to attack La Fayette in his now ascertained position. A ludicrous incident occurred when a body of dragoons, advancing on the Ridge road, came upon a company of Iroquois who were a part of Captain McLean's command, and who, terrified by the unfamiliar cavalry, rose with a war whoop from the ground where they were lying prostrate in ambush. The dragoons were even more terrified than the Indians, whom they believed to be painted devils, and they precipitately retreated down the road to Philadelphia.

MONUMENT AT BARREN HILL

ERECTED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA., TO MARK THE SITE OF LA FAYETTE'S ENCAMPMENT

La Fayette remained on the west bank of the Schuylkill over night awaiting possible attack, and on the morning of the twenty-first, having learned that the British had withdrawn, he recrossed to his former position on Barren Hill, and later returned by Swede's Ford to Valley Forge, to the great relief of General Washington, who had heard alarm guns which were fired the day before, and feared that the detachment had met with disaster. He warmly commended La Fayette for his judgment and skill in extricating his command from a seemingly hopeless position, in which defeat would have crippled the American army and forever blighted the young commander's career.

Anticipating that Clinton would soon evacuate Philadelphia, Washington called a council of war to determine the course to be taken. At this council General Lee, an English officer who had joined the Continental army, and who was second in command, vigorously opposed an encounter with the British and advocated withdrawal to White Plains to await developments. He carried many with him in this proposal although La Fayette spoke vigorously against it, and Washington, being desirous of attacking, requested all the officers to put their opinions in writing, but before this could be done it was learned that the British were on the march, and shortly afterward that they were across the Delaware on their way to New York. Washington sent orders to the New Jersey militia to impede the enemy in every way, and immediately despatched two divisions of the army under Generals Lee and Wayne respectively, to Coryell's Ferry on the Delaware, a direction parallel with that the British had taken, while the next day, the 19th of June, he followed with the main body under General La Fayette, Baron de Kalb, and Lord Stirling. Soon after passing the Delaware another council

SUNNYSIDE TAVERN, BARREN HILL

IN WHICH LA FAYETTE SLEPT. NOW OCCUPIED AS A DWELLING

was called, at which General Lee again argued against an encounter with the British, avowing that there was no hope of victory over the highly trained enemy, but Washington was determined not to permit them to pass unhindered, and with the support of many of the officers, including La Fayette, who spoke strongly in favor of an attack, he detached strong parties to harass their flanks and rear. These were increased until, having about five thousand men in this service, he decided to combine the commands under a major-general, who by right of seniority would have been Lee, but this officer being opposed to the plan, declined it and with his permission it was given to La Fayette. The latter started enthusiastically upon the mission and was close upon the British, who were then resting at Monmouth, when General Lee changed his attitude toward the operations and, declaring that his honor was at stake, begged Washington to place him in command, at the same time acquainting La Fayette with his request and working upon his generosity to resign in his favor, which La Fayette immediately, though reluctantly, did. Washington's purpose was to bring his army within available distance in case the detachment was endangered or a good opportunity for a general engagement arose. The division was now within a few miles of the enemy, and realizing that if they passed Monmouth the British would stand a good chance of reaching the coast, Washington resolved to attack them as soon as they should move, and directed General Lee to hold his troops in readiness for this. He also, in the presence of a company of officers, requested the latter to call a council of his generals later in the day to decide upon a plan of action.

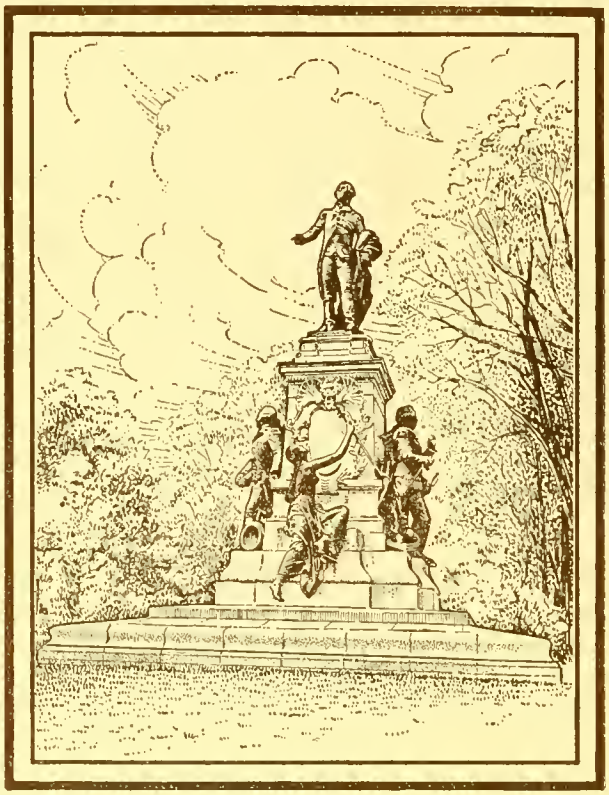
From this time General Lee's acts must be regarded as those of a traitor to the cause he was identified with. He held no council with his officers, who therefore had no common understanding of the projected movement. He remained inactive while his generals were carrying out individual manœuvres, and he refused repeated calls for assistance, and finally recalled and ordered them to retreat in the face of evident advantage, until consternation prevailed, and his troops were in full retreat without knowing why. La Fayette, being superseded in command, had gone into action as a volunteer and was requested by General Lee to direct the advance detachments under General Wayne and General Scott, but while successfully executing his instructions, his command was ordered elsewhere and, in spite of repeated appeals for support, soon found itself deserted in the general retreat which it was obliged to join. General Washington was apprised of the situation by meeting on the road by which his army was hur-

riedly advancing, the first stragglers from the flying troops. Riding hastily forward he came up with the main body accompanied by General Lee, and in scarcely concealed wrath he demanded of the commander an explanation of his action. The latter in his confusion was at a loss for a reply, and receiving no satisfaction on repeating his inquiry, the Commander-in-chief left Lee and rode back to check the retreat. He soon learned that the British, taking advantage of the flight, were rapidly advancing, and he seized upon a favorable position in a narrow defile to make a stand and receive the enemy's cavalry. The latter advanced to within short range when they were met with a volley which shattered their formation and obliged them to fall back with heavy loss; they were followed by grenadiers who were likewise received and repulsed. In the meantime General Washington brought up his own troops which, with others of Lee's command, were advantageously disposed on rising ground in the rear, the center line under La Fayette, and effectually checked the British advance. A severe engagement ensued, and when darkness fell both sides maintained their positions, the British protected from flank attacks by woods and morasses on either side. Notwithstanding these difficulties, General Washington had decided to press an attack, but the failing light obliged him to postpone it until morning, with the result that dawn showed a deserted field, the enemy having departed noiselessly in the night, leaving many of their wounded, and gained an advance which rendered pursuit hopeless. The outcome was equivalent to a victory by the Americans which, had it not been for General Lee's incompetence or treachery, would have amounted to the annihilation of Clinton's army. General Lee was soon afterward tried by court-martial, and being found guilty on several charges, was sentenced to be suspended from all command in the army for a period of twelve months, this sentence being later approved by Congress. Before the expiration of this he was discharged from the service, the unanimous testimony of his brother officers leaving little doubt that his deliberate purpose on this occasion was to subvert the plans of his commander and facilitate the escape of the British.

While the battle of Monmouth was being fought to cripple the British in their passage to New York, a powerful fleet, the first of the French alliance, was nearing Delaware Bay in the hope of blockading and capturing Lord Howe's ships and coöperating with the American army against the garrison at Philadelphia. This fleet, consisting of twelve ships of the line and fourteen frigates, with one thousand men for shore service in addition to their ample crews, was under the command of the Comte d'Estaing, and brought as a passenger, among others identified with the cause of independence, M. Gerard, the first minister of France to the new republic. It sailed from Toulon on the thirteenth of April, 1778, but head winds and storms beset the ships from the start, and it was eighty-five days before they anchored, on the seventh of July, inside the capes of the Delaware. By this time the British were safely in New York, and Washington, with his army, was nearing the Hudson, which he planned to cross and establish himself near the enemy. Finding no use for his fleet at that point, the Comte d'Estaing landed his passengers and despatched messengers to Congress and to General Washington, announcing his arrival, and then put to sea again with the purpose of following Lord Howe to New York. He arrived at Sandy Hook four days later, but to his great disappointment it was found, after waiting more than a week for fresh water and supplies, of which his men were in sore need, that his larger ships drew too much water to cross the bar at the entrance to New York harbor, and he was compelled to again put to sea, leaving the British, whom he so eagerly sought, safe in the inner harbor while he headed for Newport, Rhode Island, to coöperate with the troops under General Sullivan and others that Washington was preparing to despatch under La Fayette, for the reduction of a strong garrison which the British held under General Pigot on the islands of Narragansett Bay.

The arrival of this fleet was a source of great joy and gratification to La Fayette. It represented before the world the alliance of the country of his birth and that of his adoption. He was a thorough and sincere American in this struggle for liberty, but this in no way displaced his innate patriotism, bred through generations of soldiers and courtiers, and his heart warmed with a Frenchman's pride in the prowess and magnificence of his country's tribute, while it opened in thankfulness for the timely help promised the American cause. His native rank

and prestige, with his high standing in the esteem of the army and Congress, marked him providentially for an internuncio between these two peoples united in a common cause but with fundamentally differing sentiments and customs. This duty was made particularly pleasant by the fact that the Comte d'Estaing was his relative and an *Auvergnat* which was taken advantage of, at the request of General Washington, to assure the Admiral of the authenticity of the first dispatches from the American camp by reference to family and provincial matters. La Fayette had good reason for his gratification at the turn of affairs. He had left France in actual though regretful defiance of his honored King's commands, to champion an almost hopeless cause, and now, after two years of effort and advancement he beheld his country's forces by his side, and his King's minister received with high honor at Philadelphia. His eager desire to share in the glory to be won through the operations of the allies was gratified by the Commander-in-chief with the command of a detachment of two thousand men to augment the forces under Major-General Sullivan, consisting chiefly of militia which he was endeavoring to increase by levies from neighboring states. It was Washington's intention that La Fayette should lead this entire force, under General Sullivan's direction, but before La Fayette reached Providence the claims of General Greene, in this his native state, presented themselves, and he modified his instructions to the former, with the request that he relinquish one half his command to Greene, whose special fitness for this occasion was noted, and La Fayette with his usual good grace acquiesced, although experiencing some disappointment at this curtailment of his opportunities in concert with his countrymen. He reached Providence on the fourth of August, soon after the arrival of the fleet, which was anxious for immediate action, impelled by the evident weakness of the British situation and the necessity of early relief from an epidemic of scurvy engendered by the lack of fresh water and wholesome food; this was postponed at the request of General Sullivan, who had as yet received but a small part of his expected militia, and it was several days before he was ready to begin, during which General Pigot made important changes in the disposition of his troops and greatly strengthened his position. He had a garrison of six thousand men, the greater part of whom were at Newport, with a detachment at the northern end of the island guarding the passage from the mainland and another on the adjacent island of Canonicut; these were strongly intrenched and supported by several frigates and smaller craft. Realizing that his situation was critical, the British commander abandoned the post on Canonicut, which was certain to fall an easy prey before the fire of the French fleet and the troops from the mainland. He also blew up or burned the vessels, that would otherwise have been at the mercy of the greatly superior enemy, sending some of them adrift as fireships among the approaching fleet.



LA FAYETTE MONUMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.
BY FALGUIERE AND MERCIER

When at last on the eighth of August General Sullivan declared himself in readiness for the combined attack and transmitted the plan to the Comte d'Es-

taing, only the necessity for harmonious action prevented a breach of the strained relations between the allies, each of which regarded the other jealously. La Fayette was called upon to exercise his tact to the utmost to maintain a degree of confidence between them, while his own feelings were lacerated by the seeming indifference of the Americans to the rights and merits of his countrymen. It having been agreed that the attack should be made simultaneously on the morning of Monday, August tenth, the Comte d'Estaing on the eighth moved his ships to the chosen stations, the chief squadron entering the main channel unharmed by the broadsides from the batteries on Rhode Island, to a point advantageous for disembarking the troops which were to serve on Canonicut with the Americans under La Fayette. On Sunday, while the troops and field pieces were being landed, word was sent to the Comte d'Estaing by La Fayette that General Sullivan had taken advantage of the retreat of the British from their northern fortifications on the approach of the French ships that were sent up the East Channel, and had crossed over to Rhode Island with his troops, though unable to transport his cannon, and that he desired assistance from the French Admiral. This deviation from the carefully arranged plan was doubtless of little consequence from General Sullivan's point of view, but to the professional soldier, on whom he now relied, it was the shattering of every tradition of recognized warfare and an affront affecting every one of his self-sacrificing compatriots. Notwithstanding his wounded sensibilities and the poignant regret that his men would thus be deprived of their just meed of glory in the expected victory, he was preparing to send the desired assistance when he received intelligence of a powerful fleet that had arrived outside to succor the beleaguered garrison. This alarming news found him in a weakened position, his ships widely separated and many of his men on shore, and he decided to immediately embark his men and call a council of his captains to decide on the question of offensive or defensive action. The council declared in favor of concentration of the fleet during the night in readiness to receive attack, as the wind was unfavorable to passage outward, but in the morning the wind veered to a favorable direction and they at once set sail to meet and challenge Lord Howe. Three frigates were left to protect General Sullivan, to whom assurances were transmitted that the Comte d'Estaing would return and take part in the attack as soon as he had defeated the British fleet.

Having repassed the British batteries on Rhode Island without serious damage from their broadsides, he approached the enemy under full sail, and the latter hastily left their anchorage and put to sea, standing again toward New York. The French followed with all possible speed, and late in the afternoon had so gained upon them that orders were given for a general attack, which Lord Howe was preparing to meet, when a severe storm arose and obliged the admirals to give their undivided attention to the preservation of their ships. The storm continued with great fury throughout the night, and when morning broke both fleets were scattered and badly damaged, the "Languedoc," the Comte d'Estaing's flagship, having lost her rudder and all her masts. In this helpless condition she was attacked by one of the British ships, which fortunately did not press its advantage, and other desultory engagements took place, but neither fleet was in condition for combat and after a consultation with his captains the Comte d'Estaing turned toward Newport—his own ship in tow of a less crippled one—and the British returned to New York without further molestation. The council of captains strongly favored immediate retreat to Boston for refitting and replenishing the almost utterly exhausted or contaminated supplies, and by the strict terms of his royal orders the Admiral was required to do this, but as he had given his word that he would return to Newport he determined to do so, although it was evident that he was in no condition to render aid to General Sullivan. On arrival he presented his situation to the American Commander, and advised him of the necessity of taking his fleet straightway to Boston, as the conditions and his orders required. He promised to return at the earliest possible day and resume operations, but the American officers refused to be satisfied with this, and his sailing was followed by a protest signed by all but General La Fayette.

The position of the latter was fast becoming unbearable under the succession of misfortunes and misunderstandings that marked the Comte d'Estaing's ill-starred expedition. His honor as a Frenchman, dearer even than his hope for American liberty, was frequently and deeply wounded by the disparaging com-

ments and recriminations he heard from his brother officers, and by the unfriendly looks that met him on every side. Under this he maintained his usual poise and dignity, but his feelings found vent in a heartfelt letter to General Washington and in personal protest to General Sullivan, when the latter in the heat of resentment included in his general order a slighting reference to the allies. He convinced the commander of the necessity of retraction, and a later order of the same day explained what, it noted, had unwarrantably appeared to be a reflection on the Comte d'Estaing and his fleet. While he resented the attitude of his companions toward his compatriots, La Fayette in no way relaxed his efforts to secure mutual coöperation, and he had earnestly endeavored to dissuade the Comte d'Estaing from departing until some decisive blow could be struck. Having failed in this he rode post haste to Boston, at the request of General Sullivan, to urge the detachment of an auxiliary force to aid in the land attack, and as a result of a conference with the French commander and the Massachusetts leaders, he brought back to General Sullivan assurance of the Comte d'Estaing's readiness to personally command a regiment of reinforcements which would be entirely at the disposal of the American General. The Count made this offer to show his freedom from ill-will as a result of recent dissensions, and to restore harmony, as he had no faith in the value of such an inconsiderable augmenting of the forces, but his complaisance proved fruitless as an attack had been precipitated the day after La Fayette's departure from the field and the latter reached Rhode Island again just in time to take charge of the last section of a midnight retreat to the mainland. On the twentieth of August he had made the journey to Boston, a distance of seventy miles, in seven hours, and arrived almost at the same hour as the French fleet. On the thirtieth he made the return trip in six and one half hours, reaching camp at eleven o'clock at night.

In leaving the army in the face of imminent action he sacrificed his keenest ambitions to the will of his superior. The struggle which had been the object of his hopes and efforts for more than a month was forced by the British, when the Americans, after a council of war and in view of their growing weakness from rapidly deserting militia and the peril of their position in the event of the expected return of the English fleet, returned to their former position at the northern end of the island, where the adjacent mainland would enable them to retreat if necessary. This was accomplished on the night of August twenty-eighth, and early on the morning of the twenty-ninth General Pigot discovered the movement and hurried his forces to a vigorous attack. General Sullivan displayed great skill and bravery in the resulting engagement in which he repulsed three determined assaults, and in the last completely routed the enemy, who retreated in disorder, leaving many dead and wounded on the field. At the end of the day the British were intrenched on a neighboring hill, and the two armies confronted each other with minor skirmishes during the thirtieth, while on the American side a council of war, called on the receipt of a message from General Washington announcing the departure of Lord Howe for Newport, declared for immediate retreat to the mainland. In pursuance of this, the heavy baggage was sent to the rear, while at the front a show was made of strengthening the fortifications. As soon as darkness permitted the transportation of the troops was begun which La Fayette on his arrival from Boston completed without discovery or mishap. This movement proved a fortunate escape, as on the following morning Lord Howe arrived with a fleet of one hundred vessels and with reinforcements for the garrison.

The action on Rhode Island marked the close of operations against the eastern stronghold of the British and terminated the activities of the allies under the Comte d'Estaing. Having set out with a splendid equipment and with the high hopes of France and America, as well as with undoubted personal enthusiasm, he had failed, through a succession of misfortunes, to accomplish any of the great objects of his expedition, and in now preparing to sail for the West Indies, he was carrying out what was expected to have been a triumphant descent upon the British possessions after clearing the coast of their ships, whereas the close of his campaign left America more menaced than before, as the presence of his fleet had been the cause of a greater strengthening of British naval forces on this side of the Atlantic. On the breaking up of the command, La Fayette was left to defend the country around Bristol while General Sullivan with the main

THE FRIGATE "ALLIANCE"

BUILT ON THE MERRIMAC RIVER AT SALISBURY POINT, NEAR NEWBURYPORT, MASS.

body of the troops went to Providence. The Marquis had expressed to General Washington his mortification and regret at his enforced absence from the field of battle, to which his inherited profession of soldier most ardently impelled him, and it was therefore especially consoling to receive, as he did soon after, a copy of a resolution of Congress noting his service in Boston and thanking him for his self-sacrifice at a time of impending action. It was accompanied by a cordial letter from the President, Henry Laurens, to whom La Fayette returned expressions of his gratification and his sincere and abounding love for America and its cause of liberty.

With the approach of winter and the prospect of inactivity for some months, he recurred to his desire to visit his home, which he had entertained the previous year but which had been frustrated by the proposed expedition to Canada. He had now an incentive added to the joy of reunion with his family, the possibility that his service would be required in a descent on England under his country's flag, of which the Comte d'Estaing had suggested a probability. He obtained leave of absence to visit Philadelphia, and on his way spent a day with General Washington at his headquarters on the Hudson, and received the Commander-in-chief's approval of his petition for a furlough to return to France. An ill-considered affair came up at this time, when Lord Carlisle, one of the commissioners sent by England to offer terms of peace to America, referred slightingly to France in an address to Congress. La Fayette, with youthful and with French impulse, against the remonstrances of General Washington and the Comte d'Estaing, challenged the commissioner to give him an opportunity to avenge the insult, but Lord Carlisle refused to regard it as a personal matter and suggested that it was one fitter for the French and English admirals to decide—a view in which La Fayette in later years coincided.

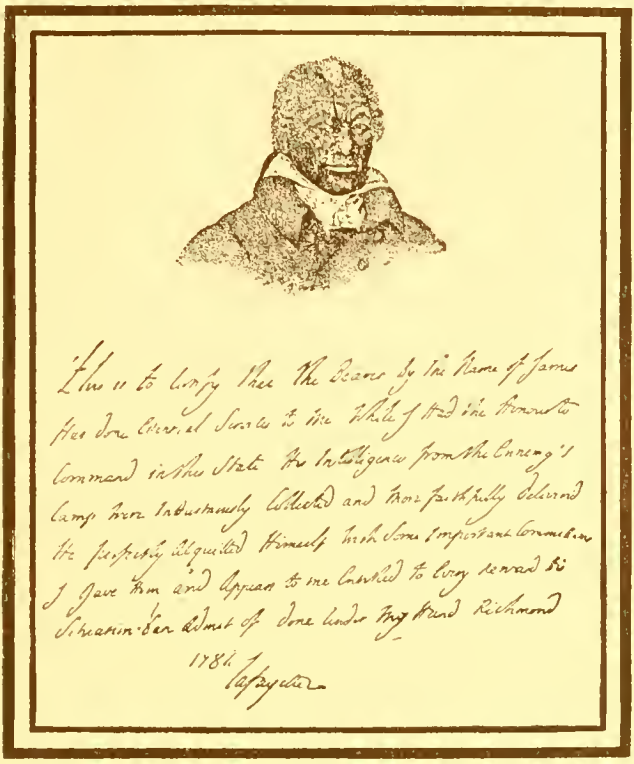
Congress, always ready to honor the beloved marquis, not only granted him an indefinite furlough but extended their thanks for his zeal and services and further "*Resolved*, That the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America at the court of Versailles be directed to cause an elegant sword with proper devices, to be made and presented, in the name of the United States, to the Marquis de La Fayette." It was also ordered that the new frigate "Alliance," then at Boston ready for sea, be held to carry him to France. He set out from

Philadelphia with buoyant anticipations of his glorious return, but the chilling weather of the late fall found in him a weakened victim, and a growing illness overtook him with prostration at Fishkill on the Hudson, only a few miles from the headquarters of his dearest friend in America. There he lay for weeks tossing in violent fever while the army and the country mourned him as one departed, so little hope was entertained of his recovery. General Washington visited the house daily to learn of his condition, and he sent to attend him, Dr. John Cochran, Surgeon General of the Army, under whose skillful and devoted care he finally rallied. As soon as his strength returned sufficiently he bade an affectionate farewell to his dear friend, and with Dr. Cochran, who was still solicitous, departed for Boston, where he passed a short period of convalescence while awaiting the complement of the frigate's crew. He kept up correspondence with Washington to the moment of sailing, and he took with him a most cordial and appreciative introduction from the latter to Dr. Franklin, while Congress addressed to King Louis a remarkable testimonial to his character and abilities in the service of the United States.

The "Alliance" sailed from Boston on the eleventh of January, 1779, and made a quick passage in spite of especially rough weather, arriving at Brest on the twelfth of February. La Fayette had left France less than two years before under the ban of a *lettre de cachet;* he now returned a recognized and an honored hero. The *lettre de cachet* was, technically, still in force against him, and he went at once to Versailles where he met the King's Ministers and was most cordially received, but out of respect to the law was arrested and committed to the Hotel de Noailles—his family residence. Here he gave himself up to the joy of reunion with his wife and kindred, and received the notables who hastened to pay their respects and consult him, and the ladies who flocked, in the allowable French fashion, to embrace him. He saw for the first time his daughter Anastasia, born since his departure, who now occupied the place of the lost Henriette. After a few days he wrote a letter of humble apology to the King and he was in consequence summoned to Versailles where he received a *"reprimande douce"* and congratulations from Louis XVI, and was restored to liberty with a hint to avoid as much as possible the public places where demonstrations by the people would call attention to the anomaly of his position. There is ample evidence that such sequestration was warranted, as popular acclaim had reached such a height that nightly allusions to him in the theaters occasioned general applause.

La Fayette was now able to give thought and effort to plans directly and indirectly favoring the revolution, and the high respect in which he was held at Versailles, especially by the Comte de Vergennes, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, enabled him successfully to advocate them and resulted in incalculable good to the American cause. So critical and discouraging were conditions in France and America that but for the personal popularity of Franklin and La Fayette the fullness and continuance of the aid so indispensable at this juncture would have been unattainable. Through the influence of Queen Marie Antoinette he was made colonel of a regiment stationed at Saintes and from this place he addressed to the Ministry numerous suggestions upon the common cause, and in particular upon a projected expedition to invade England in which he was extremely desirous of taking a prominent part. The expedition was finally arranged and he left for Havre where the army and navy were to rendezvous for this purpose, his assignment being that of aide to the Comte de Vaux, the Commander-in-chief. Great preparations were made for a combined attack by the forces of France and Spain, but owing to extreme tardiness on the part of the fleet under Comte d'Orvilliers, which was to convoy the transports, British contradefense so progressed that the feasibility of the plan was in doubt and it was finally abandoned late in the summer of 1779 after months of waiting. While at Havre La Fayette received with warmly expressed pleasure the sword made for him in Paris under Franklin's direction by order of Congress, and now brought to him with an appreciative letter from the envoy by his grandson Temple Franklin. This sword was of exquisite workmanship and depicted on the golden hilt and guard the scenes in which La Fayette's bravery and skill had been most conspicuous.

Even while the invasion of England was expected, La Fayette was developing, at the request of M. de Vergennes, a comprehensive and detailed plan for a



PORTRAIT AND LETTER BY LA FAYETTE
FROM THE ORIGINAL IN THE CAPITOL, RICHMOND

second expedition to America, and in the latter part of July he forwarded this to the Secretary with such copious notes and instructions based upon his knowledge of the country and experience in its affairs that the memorial was accepted as an adequate embodiment of the subject and became the foundation of the plan which, upon the abandonment of the Channel campaign, was definitely adopted. Thus through La Fayette the energies of France were again bent to succor and aid the enfeebled cause of liberty whose exhausted defenders were now reduced to critical inefficiency. Through correspondence and consultation between La Fayette and the Comte de Vergennes the final arrangements were made and early in March, 1780, the Marquis found himself on board the frigate "Hermione" bound once more for America, this time as the honored servant of his King, bearing to General Washington the tidings of ships, and troops that were soon to follow, and his majesty's suggestions for their effective employment under the American Commander-in-chief. On the twenty-eighth of April the "Hermione" arrived at Boston where great joy was manifested at the return of La Fayette, who was escorted through cheering crowds to the residence of General Hancock. He at once wrote General Washington apprising him of his arrival and intention of starting the next day to seek him and deliver the important messages with which he was intrusted. He was at that time ignorant of recent movements of the army and of the location of headquarters but following later intelligence he found the General at Morristown, where he arrived on the tenth of May. He was received with gratifying enthusiasm by the officers and soldiers and with heartfelt pleasure by Washington, to whom he announced the coming of the new expedition, under the Comte de Rochambeau, and presented the suggestions of the ministry contained in his instructions from the Comte de Vergennes. After spending a few days with General Washington and discussing the combined operations, La Fayette continued to Philadelphia to present himself to Congress and to confer with the Chevalier de La Luzerne, who had succeeded M. Gerard as French Minister to the United States. He was heartily welcomed by Congress, which as a body had as yet no knowledge of the news he brought, it having been thought wise to withhold this information until the arrival of the fleet, for fear of giving warning to General Clinton. Before the French arrived however the matter was generally known and discussed, as the British had received dispatches from England reporting the movement.

Washington's great anxiety was to properly support and feed the allies and he urged the governors of the several states to exert themselves to the utmost to raise men and provisions for the purpose. His own army had frequently been without bread or meat for days at a time, so scant were the resources available, but he felt that now or never must the supreme effort be made to strike a crushing blow, and this would be impossible and the French coöperation again fruitless without troops and rations. The fleet, which arrived at Narragansett Bay early in July, consisted of six ships of the line and five frigates with five thou-

sand five hundred troops. More troops were to have been sent but the transports for bringing them were delayed and it was thought best to sail at once with all that could be carried, leaving the balance to be forwarded when opportunity offered. They were hardly inside the Rhode Island capes when several British men-of-war appeared and they came out again to meet these, but the British were apparently discouraged by the strength of their enemy for they turned and put back to New York. The Comte de Rochambeau immediately sent a letter to General Washington placing himself and his forces at the Commander-in-chief's disposal, on receipt of which La Fayette was despatched to Newport with a plan of action against New York, which then seemed feasible because of a preponderance of naval strength on the French side—and which Washington regarded as the most important object attainable—but before he reached Rhode Island reinforcements under Admiral Graves arrived which gave the British the naval superiority and put the French commanders on the defensive. The situation of the French was rendered more dubious by the incapacity, through illness, of a large proportion of the troops and sailors, and Admiral de Ternay feared for his fleet a repetition of the failure of the Comte d'Estaing. A few British men-of-war appeared off Newport and were driven back by a portion of the French fleet, which were unable to overtake them, but they in turn were pursued by a large fleet of the enemy which soon appeared and which set up a blockade of Narragansett Bay. As General Clinton was known to be preparing a large expedition to move against the combined forces of General Heath and the Comte de Rochambeau on Rhode Island, the surrounding country was drawn on for militia to swell the ranks, and the French General strongly urged General Washington to send a body of regulars to his assistance, but for many reasons the Commander-in-chief decided against this, mainly because he felt that by using his army to threaten New York from the West and thereby restrain General Clinton, he could more effectively relieve the forces at Newport. The issue was as he hoped and the expedition was soon abandoned, although there is reason to believe that other considerations contributed to this result.

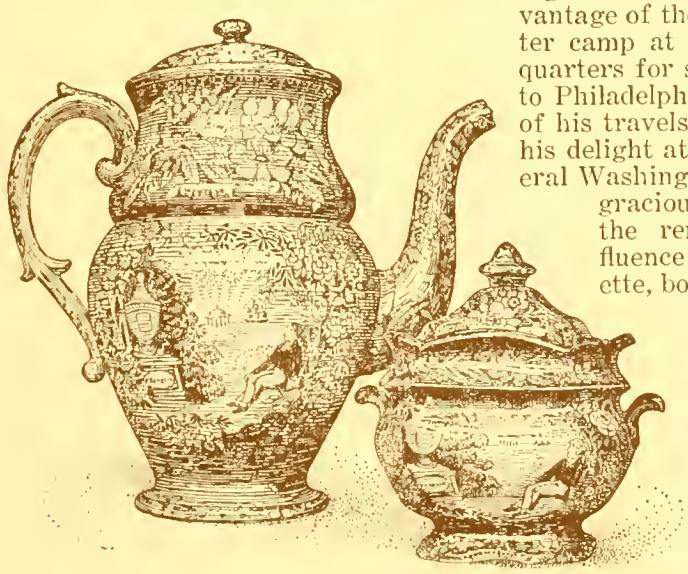
Although the situation was relieved it was still unfavorable, and La Fayette took up with the Comte de Rochambeau the plan of attacking New York, which the aid of the second division from Brest, which was now shortly expected, would render promising. Much depended on this division as it was to bring clothing for fifteen thousand men, and large quantities of arms and powder, all of which La Fayette had arranged for, but which the first division was unable to bring on account of the lack of transports. The need of these munitions was greatly felt in the work of building up the army for the projected operations, but patience and patriotism on the part of officers and men made the best of the deficiency. Having established an understanding as to the movements to be made when operations were begun, La Fayette returned to the headquarters on the Hudson and was given the command of a corps of light infantry, consisting of six battalions, which General Washington had formed with this in view. As the light infantry would naturally be in the van in any movement the commission was both flattering and pleasing to the Marquis, and the relations thus begun between commander and men were notable for cordiality and permanence.

Late in August the frigate "Alliance" arrived at Boston and brought information that the second division of the French fleet was blockaded by thirty English ships outside the harbor Brest. This put an end to hopes of immediate reinforcements and supplies from France and it became necessary to give up the plan of an attack on New York until greater naval strength was available. Regret for this misfortune was particularly poignant because of the lateness of the season, and the fact that a large part of the army would retire at the end of the year through expiration of their terms of enlistment. At this juncture General

COMMEMORATIVE PLATE
Owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Washington, in compliance with a request from the Comte de Rochambeau, appointed September twentieth at Hartford for a conference on the situation and prospects. The Commander-in-chief was accompanied on this occasion by General La Fayette and General Knox, while with the Comte de Rochambeau and Admiral de Ternay were several other French officers. The conference was most deferential on both sides, and the serious deficiencies of force and resources being recognized by all, mutually signed statements were executed which strongly urged the King of France to provide the necessary ships and supplies, and a copy of these addressed to Comte de Vergennes was delivered to the Vicomte de Rochambeau, the son of the General, who sailed at once for France in one of the vessels of the fleet. To further urge this appeal Congress despatched Colonel John Laurens, the son of their President, to the court at Versailles. The American officers returned to headquarters by way of West Point to give General Washington an opportunity to inspect the fortifications there and confer with General Benedict Arnold who at his own urgent request had recently been appointed to command this post. The hand of fate, which alike shapes good and ill fortune, brought them there at the very hour of Major André's arrest at Tarrytown while returning from the fort with Arnold's traitorous contract of surrender, and the latter, having the fortune to be first informed of this, fled without greeting them. In a most detailed and interesting account of the calamity which he wrote to the Chevalier de La Luzerne, La Fayette expressed his horror of the revelation and related the circumstances attending it, commending also to the sympathies of patriots the stricken wife of the traitor, who, he was convinced, was ignorant of the plot. He was a member of the court-martial which condemned Major André to be hung, and he signed the judgment, regretting deeply that the inexorable necessities of war required beyond any shadow of doubt the execution of this talented and lovable young man.

September was now near its end, and with Admiral de Ternay's fleet blockaded at Newport and the American army unequal in numbers or equipment to the British under General Clinton, there was little prospect of accomplishing any decisive movement during the few weeks that would intervene before going into winter quarters. La Fayette with his usual zeal, and especially in consideration of the moral necessity of presenting some report of action to the waiting Ministry, urged various secondary attacks upon the British outposts around New York and one of these had been determined upon when an unexpected movement of the enemy's ships disarranged the plan. He chafed under inactivity and he feared for the reputation of the American army and the success of the expedition which his country had sent here. While he was agitated by these regrets the Chevalier de Chastellux, a dear friend who was serving under Comte de Rochambeau, took advantage of the settled routine of the winter camp at Newport and visited headquarters for some days while on his way to Philadelphia. In a charming account of his travels M. de Chastellux describes his delight at meeting and knowing General Washington, who received him most graciously, and his gratification at the remarkable position and influence of the Marquis de La Fayette, both among his troops and the country in general, while he further says of him, "I do not fear contradiction when I say that private letters from him have frequently produced more effect upon some states than the strongest exhortations of the Congress." Soon after the Marquis de Chastellux arrived at Philadelphia, La Fayette ob-



LA FAYETTE CHINA IN METROPOLITAN MUSEUM
Reproduced by permission

tained leave of absence and joined him, there being no special occasion for his services at the winter quarters to which the army had now repaired. From that city his attention was turned southward and in the hope of active service he requested General Washington to transfer him to the department under General Greene, who was endeavoring to regain General Gates' lost ground in South Carolina and Georgia. General Washington at this time feared that by renouncing his command in the northern army La Fayette would unwisely forfeit his share in the glory to be achieved when reinforcements should make possible the reduction of New York, and he advised the Marquis to decide the matter in the light of the fullest information that he could obtain from France as to the probability of immediate succor. Everything now depended on substantial aid from that country. The British easily dominated the naval situation, while the army, through lack of funds and consequent lack of food and clothing, was reduced to its lowest efficiency—with rapidly dwindling ranks and little hope of recruits. The uniforms and supplies which La Fayette had arranged for, were still at the mercy of the British fleet blockading Brest, and although public spirited men and women worked diligently to supply the deficiency, the suffering was but slightly relieved. On the occasion of the raising of a fund in Philadelphia for this purpose, La Fayette contributed one hundred guineas in the name of his wife, and accompanied the gift with a letter assuring the ladies having the matter in charge that the Marquise would, were she present, most heartily enter into the work. While at Philadelphia he frequently wrote to Comte de Vergennes and others of the Ministry urging speedy assistance, and to M. de Vergennes and to Madame de La Fayette recommending Colonel Laurens, the special envoy, to the highest social favors. He gave up his idea of joining the southern army and early in January, 1781, he returned to the headquarters at New Windsor to pass the rest of the winter with General Washington with whom he hoped to visit his countrymen at Newport.

While he thus renounced his desire for southern service the movements of the British were soon to bring about in a more gratifying way than La Fayette had expected, his participation in the campaign in that section. Confined to New York in the North, General Clinton had long since transferred aggressive operations to the South, hoping thus to restrict by degrees the territory of the rebels, and through several successful engagements had taken Savannah and Charleston, at which latter city he had left Lord Cornwallis with upwards of four thousand troops, to hold it and, if possible, extend his domination northward. On the American side, General Benjamin Lincoln and his army had been forced to surrender at Charleston, and Congress had formed and despatched a new corps from Maryland and Delaware, under Baron de Kalb, and given the command of the Department of the South to General Gates who, taking his army into South Carolina, was met and utterly defeated at Camden, the Baron de Kalb being killed in the action. Cornwallis sought to take advantage of his success by marching through North Carolina, but was checked by an American victory in an engagement with a division of his troops at King's Mountain and drew back over the South Carolina border. Sir Henry Clinton, on learning of the success at Camden, despatched a force of three thousand men under General Leslie to establish a base near the James river in Virginia, and operate in that vicinity subject to orders from the southern commander. The latter soon called General Leslie to his support in South Carolina and the British Commander-in-chief made up another expedition to enter Virginia under the traitor Benedict Arnold, who now held the rank of brigadier general in the British army. These operations were followed with intense interest by General Washington, who cherished the hope of dislodging the British from their strongholds in the South. He was authorized by Congress to appoint General Nathanael Greene to supersede Gates, and the former was already in North Carolina with the nucleus of an army, when Arnold arrived at the James river on the thirtieth of December, 1780. General Greene had aroused the country through which he passed, to fresh and notable exertions for the support of his troops, and was gathering an effective army at Charlotte, North Carolina, but as he was fully occupied in checking Cornwallis it was necessary to combat Arnold with another division. To this end General Washington detached a part of the Light Infantry commanded by La Fayette in the fall of 1780, and ordered a rendezvous of New Jersey troops at Morristown—in all about twelve hundred men—which he placed under La Fayette with instructions

ASSEMBLY HALL AND LIBRARY, BALTIMORE
FROM A PRINT OWNED BY THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

to proceed at once to the head of the Elk river and from there to embark, under French convoy if possible, for Hampton Roads or other advantageous point.

La Fayette received the command on the twentieth of February and started at once on the mission. He planned so wisely and marched so expeditiously that he reached the Elk several days ahead of the date mentioned by General Washington in his instructions, notwithstanding unfavorable weather and roads. He had seen to the shipment of ammunition and supplies from Philadelphia and written Governor Jefferson of Virginia requesting reinforcements of militia and also horses for the artillery he had received on the way, and his expedition, so far as his control of it extended, had every prospect of success. In his instructions he was ordered to embark his troops only when certain that French vessels were in Chesapeake Bay to support them, but after waiting several days for the collection of the required boats La Fayette embarked his men and took them to Annapolis, which he considered a point of greater advantage, from whence he continued down the bay to investigate conditions and if the French were there to personally request of the commander the convoy which, from his knowledge of the jealousies still obtaining with the allies, he felt was unlikely to be sent.

Admiral de Ternay the commander of the French fleet at Newport had died there early in the winter and his place had been taken by the Chevalier des Touches, hitherto second in command. The latter was earnest for active operations and during a storm which scattered and weakened the British blockading fleet, he was enabled to despatch a ship of the line and two frigates for Chesapeake Bay in response to requests from Congress and the Governor of Virginia, who were alarmed by the Arnold expedition and hoped to check it by destroying its transports. These vessels left Newport on the ninth of February but as the British ships were then safe in the Elizabeth river at Portsmouth they soon returned without accomplishing their purpose, although they justified their attempt by capturing at sea several of the enemy's ships and destroying others.

General Washington was ignorant of the departure of this squadron and when he learned of it predicted the result, but he urged M. des Touches to proceed there with his entire fleet and a suitable detachment of land forces which he regarded as essential to the purpose. It was this expedition which he relied upon to support La Fayette, and though it eventually sailed, nothing was accomplished as it was overtaken at the entrance of Chesapeake Bay by Admiral Arbuthnot and a blockading fleet, and after a hard fought battle in which neither side gained a victory, was obliged to return to Newport for repairs. A few miles

MONUMENT—SCENE OF SURRENDER
YORKTOWN, VA.

away La Fayette, unconscious of the repulse, was at Yorktown, Williamsburg and other points where stores could be collected or information of the enemy gained, and he learned with gratification that in response to his appeals Baron Steuben, who had been stationed at Richmond, had raised five thousand militia to serve with the troops then resting at Annapolis. While reconnoitering the enemy's position at Portsmouth with General Muhlenberg, whom he visited at his camp at Suffolk, he learned of the arrival of a fleet which he naturally supposed to be that of Admiral des Touches, but which to his great astonishment and disappointment he later found to be British. La Fayette's instructions required him in the event of success or failure of the original plan to return to headquarters as expeditiously as possible, and he therefore set out by land for Annapolis, going by way of Richmond and allowing himself the pleasure of visiting General Washington's mother at Fredericksburg and his home at Mount Vernon, for which delay he made amends by riding at night. On arriving at Annapolis he found the return of his fleet blocked by two small gunboats which the British commander had immediately sent up the bay, and the matter of reaching the head of the Elk became a serious question, as to go by land would necessitate the sacrifice of artillery and heavy stores which he had no means of transporting such a distance, and for which no wagons could be found although the surrounding country was searched. The forward passage of the fleet of ninety-seven boats had been made under Commodore Nicholson of Baltimore and he was ready to take them back at the first opportunity of eluding the gunboats. This opportunity came, after the land passage had been given up as unfeasible, through a plan of Colonel Ebenezer Stevens, proposed at a council of the officers. Under his direction two of the largest sloops, each about sixty-two tons burden, were armed with cannon, and, fitted with awnings to protect the crew, they resolutely sallied forth. Although greatly superior in armament the British did not see fit to test it, and they dropped down the bay a safe distance while the fleet triumphantly emerged and made a rapid passage to the point of their embarkation. Arrived again at the head of the Elk, La Fayette's plans were once more reversed by the receipt of a recent letter from General Washington in which he retracted, after very serious consideration, an earlier confirmation of the original instructions to return, and directed him to proceed as rapidly as possible to the support of General Greene.

While this was directly in line with his earlier expectations, La Fayette found it difficult to carry this order into effect with the troops turned toward the North. They did not like the prospect of a summer in an impoverished army in the warm climate of Virginia or North Carolina, and desertions became alarmingly frequent. To check these, La Fayette took extreme measures which were entirely successful. He hung one deserter and reprimanded two others, and then in an order of the day he announced the nature and hazards of the proposed expedition, and that he would not force any soldier to encounter these against his will, but to obviate the occasion for deserting he would on application from any who wished to return to the North grant them a pass to headquarters. Thus placed upon their mettle they cheerfully accepted the situation, and desertion, which had threatened to destroy his army, ceased entirely. Considerable

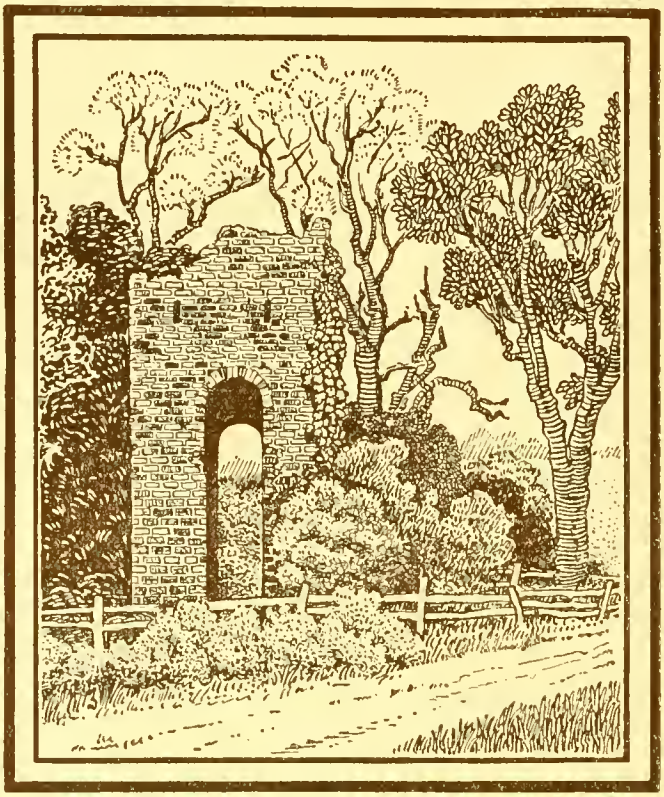
difficulty was experienced from head winds while crossing the Susquehanna river at Bald Friar Ferry, but without further incident the troops reached Baltimore where it was hoped to obtain much needed supplies of clothing and shoes. The finances of Congress were then at their lowest ebb and even Robert Morris, to whom the burden had been transferred, was unable to meet the requirements, so that no help could be expected through regular channels. It was impossible to proceed without the supplies, however, and La Fayette on his personal security borrowed two thousand guineas of the merchants of the city, with a large part of which he bought cloth for overalls and shirts, and with the balance hats and shoes. At a ball given in his honor in the new Assembly Hall he appealed to the ladies to make up the garments, with the result that the next day the dancing hall was turned into a busy workroom and those who had graced the ball vied with each other in the work of clothing the soldiers.

With spirits revived by new and serviceable outfits, the expedition left Baltimore on the nineteenth of April and began the campaign that was to end in the most glorious event of the war. Many other carefully matured plans had been set at naught by disappointment and delays and unpropitious elements, but for this one, to an extent far greater than even the Commander-in-chief could foresee, a beneficent Providence was drawing together long hoped-for and long deferred advantages, to unite them in a crown of victory. That victory was the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown, and the path to it was virtually direct from this point, although incidental detours were necessary, and slowly ripening conditions counseled delay.

Pressing forward with the utmost rapidity by forced marches, and unimpeded by tents, baggage, or artillery, which followed under guard, La Fayette arrived at Richmond with his troops on the twenty-ninth of April just in time to prevent the capture of the city by General Phillips, who had come up the James river with a strong force and was then but a few miles below Manchester on the opposite bank. Phillips, although stronger in disciplined troops than La Fayette, and greatly exasperated by the sight of the latter's well chosen camp, did not see fit to contest his position but after burning some tobacco warehouses at Manchester, abandoned his object and dropped down the river by stages to Brandon, where he encamped on the south shore. When Arnold first arrived in Virginia, he raided Richmond and destroyed an important ordnance foundry, but as the public stores and munitions had been conveyed to remote country towns, and it was necessary to return immediately to the coast, comparatively little damage was done; at this time large stores of ammunition and supplies were held in the magazines, which were the especial object of Phillips' excursion, and the loss of these would have had a serious effect on the Virginia campaign.

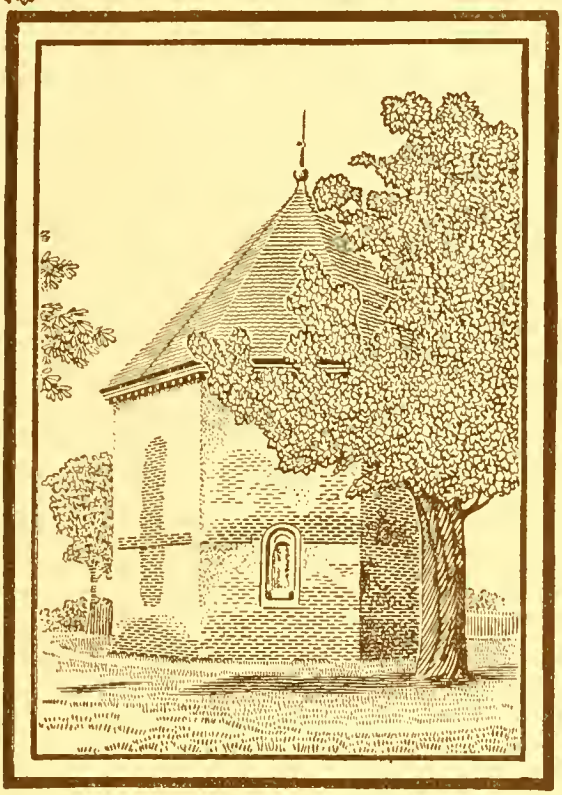
Lord Cornwallis, who had returned to Wilmington to recover from a disastrous engagement with General Greene at Guilford Court House, now formed the plan of uniting his forces with those of General Phillips, who commanded over Arnold, to gain possession of Virginia, and isolate the South to hasten its conquest. He sent word of this plan to General Phillips and the latter, who had passed further down the river, returned to Brandon preparatory to marching to Petersburg, the appointed rendezvous. This movement led La Fayette, who was following him down the river at a safe distance, to believe that he intended another attack on Richmond, and he hastily returned with his own troops to that city, but he soon learned of Cornwallis' approach and the menace to Petersburg, and he chafed at his inability, from lack of men, to go there and defend it. He continued, however, by means of scouts, to keep watch over both armies and hoped for the speedy arrival of expected reinforcements under General Wayne which he planned to use to resist a combined attack. Owing to the great difficulty of organizing and equipping them, these reinforcements had not yet left Pennsylvania, and as La Fayette at this time received orders from General Greene to assume command of all forces in Virginia and protect the state to the best of his ability, the importance of conserving and most efficiently employing his small army rendered him extremely cautious; he wrote that he "hardly dared trust himself" and when it is realized that Virginia was then the key to the most vital issue of the war and that its protector, though so long a leader of men, was only twenty-four years of age, it is not surprising that the weight of this responsibility with the insufficiency of his means, bore heavily upon him. While General Phillips

was on his way to Petersburg he was stricken with a fever and soon afterward died, upon which the command of his troops devolved again upon Benedict Arnold. Very soon after his reaccession he sent a letter to La Fayette under a flag of truce but the latter on learning the name of the sender refused to receive it, explaining to the bearer that he would gladly communicate with any other British officer. This was in direct accord with his instructions from General Washington and the dictates of his own feelings, and it was highly approved by the country, but it naturally angered Arnold, who threatened hardship to American prisoners, but no notice was taken of his threats and on the arrival of Cornwallis he was given leave of absence to report to General Clinton at New York and passed from the scene.



RUINS CHURCH TOWER, JAMESTOWN IS., VA.
BUILT IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

The operations of the next two months exhibited to a remarkable degree La Fayette's military abilities, and resulted, after devious marches and retreats by both sides, in driving the British into the trap from which they could not escape. Lord Cornwallis was joined by General Leslie with upwards of two thousand troops and another descent was made upon Richmond, but La Fayette caused the stores to be removed, and by retiring in another direction led the enemy a chase through the neighboring country, which in the course of events, and with the arrival of General Wayne, became a pursuit by the Americans. The British raided many towns, including Richmond and Charlottesville, pillaging and destroying stores, and at the latter place made prisoners of seven members of the General Assembly—which had retired there from Richmond on the approach of Cornwallis—Governor Jefferson himself barely escaping. Only once was the safety of the American army in doubt, and that was at Green Spring Farm near Jamestown on the sixth of July, when as the British were retreating down the river, La Fayette was led into an undue approach by a report that they were about to cross in great haste. This proved to be a trap into which Lord Cornwallis planned to draw the American commander, as he made it appear that the body of his troops had crossed and only a covering party remained, whereas the former were ambushed for an assault when La Fayette should open on the rear guard. By means of stragglers and pretended deserters who were instructed to misinform the Americans, La Fayette was led to make the attack, but he used such caution and made such an admirable disposition of his troops, that he inflicted considerable loss on the enemy and did not expose himself to the annihilation they hoped for. He discovered the ruse early in the action, although the concealed troops had not then been brought out, and by skillful formation, and distinguished vigor and bravery on the part of General Wayne, he was able to retire without serious loss, while the British, realizing the failure of their stratagem, crossed the river at nightfall and established themselves at Cobham. It is probable that no general action would have occurred had it not been precipitated while La Fayette was personally investigating the peculiarities of the advanced skirmish, as he then discovered the ambuscade, but when, on return-



REVOLUTIONARY POWDER HOUSE
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

ing, he found the matter beyond recall he entered valiantly into it, and was in the center of the combat leading and encouraging the troops to the end, although his horse was twice shot from under him. His bravery endeared him still further to the army and the country, and was recognized with respect by his antagonists. With the exception of a detachment which General Tarleton took on a futile raid to Amelia Court House the British retired from Cobham to Portsmouth, and La Fayette after having occupied Williamsburg withdrew his troops to a more salubrious position at Malvern Hill. He sent Generals Wayne and Morgan to watch Tarleton, upon which the latter also fell back on Portsmouth, leaving Virginia free from further alarm.

La Fayette with his restricted view of the situation now regarded his work as finished, and hoped to be recalled to New York where he believed that more important operations would soon take place. There was good reason for this supposition, as General Washington had not relinquished his plan of driving the British from Manhattan and upon the arrival of Admiral the Comte de Barras, who came from France to command the fleet at Newport, a conference at Wethersfield, Connecticut, had decided to combine the French and American land forces on the Hudson, preparatory to making a general attack when the Comte de Grasse, who was expected from the West Indies, should arrive to strengthen the naval force. The proposed preliminary movements of the allied armies were intended, in a great measure, to alarm General Clinton and cause him to draw on his southern forces for support, thus to relieve the situation in Virginia, where at this time La Fayette appeared to have little prospect of holding Cornwallis in check. Fortunately, the report of the conference, which was despatched to Congress and the Chevalier de La Luzerne, fell into the hands of General Clinton by the capture of the messenger, and he at once sent the order to Cornwallis to embark his troops, which was the occasion of the latter's withdrawal to Portsmouth, the rendezvous of his fleet.

At the Wethersfield conference the Comte de Rochambeau had urged the concentration of the allies on the Chesapeake, an alternative to which General Washington had already given much thought, but as the Comte de Barras declined on the ground of the insufficiency of his force to take his fleet there, the plan was kept in abeyance until circumstances should further develop its possibilities, the Comte de Rochambeau meanwhile sending an urgent appeal to the Comte de Grasse for ships, men and money for New York, though he also called his attention to the equal opportunity for service in the Chesapeake. Early in June a fleet arrived at Boston bringing upwards of six hundred additional troops for the Comte de Rochambeau, and ample funds for his and General Washington's armies, and on the arrival of these reinforcements at Newport General de Rochambeau started with his entire force to join the American army on the Hudson. The "Saggittaire," which convoyed the French transports to Boston, also brought a letter from the Comte de Grasse whose fleet had left France with the other and kept it company for some time, which stated the admiral's intention of coming to the United States for a short visit which he hoped would prove advantageous to the allies, and the Comte de Rochambeau before breaking camp

THE VILLAGE STREET, YORKTOWN
UNALTERED SINCE THE REVOLUTION

despatched to him another letter frankly stating the weakness of the Continental army and again urging him to help them at this critical juncture with all the resources he could command. He also repeated his intimation that a favorable opportunity existed in the South.

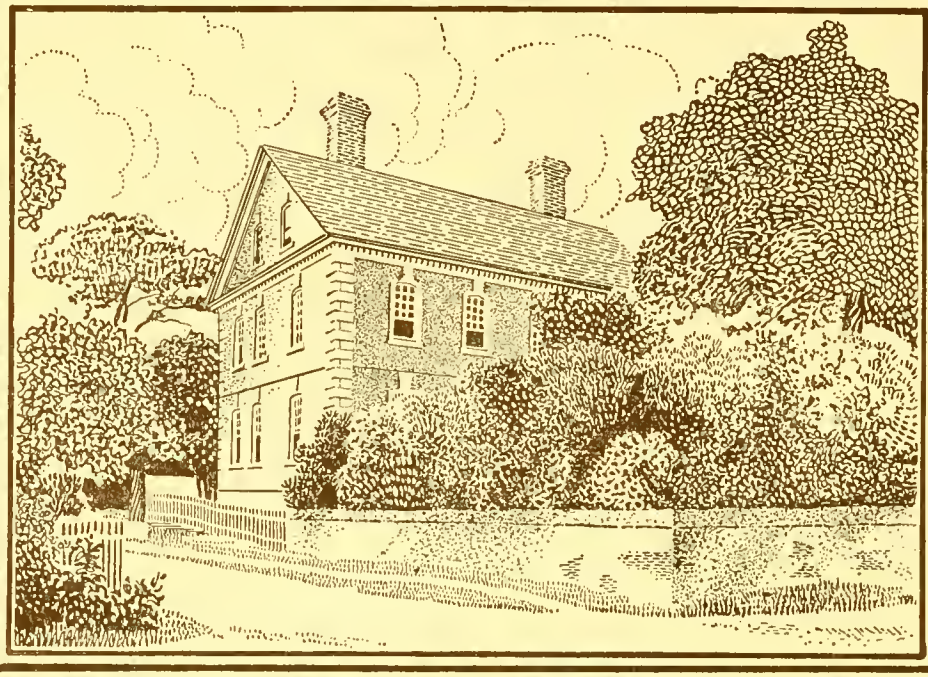
On the arrival of the French army General Washington undertook minor operations against British outposts but they were unsuccessful and the combined forces went into camp near White Plains to await developments. Washington's appeal to the states for additional troops met with slight response and his army had less than half the number of men he hoped for, so that the assistance of the Comte de Grasse was imperatively necessary to any offensive measures. The long awaited assurance of this assistance arrived on the fourteenth of August and caused an immediate change in the plans of the allies. The admiral announced that he would sail from Santo Domingo on the thirteenth of August with from twenty-five to twenty-nine ships of war, and in addition to their crews, three thousand two hundred men from the garrison of the island and a liberal equipment of artillery of a most effective character; that he would proceed to Chesapeake Bay, and that as he must return the men to the garrison in the fall it would be necessary to hasten to the utmost any proposed operations. He also announced that he had arranged to bring from Havana one million two hundred thousand livres in specie. On the receipt of this joyful intelligence the Commander-in-chief determined to move the combined armies to Virginia with all possible speed and his first care was to despatch a courier to the Marquis de La Fayette acquainting him with the Comte de Grasse's intention and urging upon him the necessity of holding Lord Cornwallis in a position unfavorable to retreat. He left La Fayette to surmise the part the Northern army would take in the operations as it was unwise to risk the possibility of giving General Clinton an inkling of his contemplated withdrawal from New York.

Leaving General Heath with a small force to protect the Hudson river he made a detour of New York with the remainder of the troops, about two thousand Continentals and four thousand French, to make it appear that he was moving on Staten Island and by this means deceived General Clinton until they were in a position to head directly for Philadelphia without fear of interception. While the army was marching to the head of the Elk General Washington went

ahead to arrange for supplies and then, inviting the Comte de Rochambeau and the Marquis de Chastellux, his companions, to accompany him, he paid a short visit to Mount Vernon, which he had not seen since he left it six years before to take command of the Continental army at Cambridge. At Philadelphia they had received word of the arrival of the Comte de Grasse which was soon followed by information of the juncture of troops under Field Marshal the Marquis de Saint-Simon with those of General La Fayette at Williamsburg.

Soon after his return to Portsmouth, Lord Cornwallis had embarked his troops, as directed by General Clinton, and was preparing to take them to New York when an order was received from his superior countermanding that for their return, and taking the General to task for having given up his ground on the James river, at the same time instructing him to take a favorable position between the York and the James where the fleet could be protected. As General Clinton had previously expressed a preference for Yorktown for such an establishment, and as surveys convinced General Cornwallis of its superiority to Old Point Comfort, which had also been recommended, he set sail around the peninsula and disembarking at that point began the erection of fortifications. To La Fayette, who watched their departure with interest, it appeared likely that Baltimore was the objective point of the British, and he hastily broke camp at Malvern Hill, and, calling in the detachments which he had posted to prevent a retreat of the enemy to North Carolina, he started for Fredericksburg, but on reaching Richmond learned that the fleet had entered Yorktown Harbor and contented himself with stationing General Wayne near Westover, while he took a corresponding position on the Pamunkey river. From here he wrote to General Washington—whose courier had not yet reached him—that he was confident that a considerable change had been made in the plans of the British, and that while there were points of advantage in the location at Yorktown and opposite in Gloucester, it would result happily for the Americans if a French fleet should make its appearance at this time. He also wrote that he was exercising great caution as "His lordship plays so well that no blunder can be hoped from him to recover a bad step of ours." His observation in regard to the fleet was based only on the general knowledge that one was likely to be in West Indian waters, and when a little later he learned that it was actually coming to his aid his spirits rose to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

On the receipt of General Washington's letter he communicated it to General Wayne and ordered him to proceed to Westover and prepare to cross to the south side of the James, where he would be in a position to embarrass any attempt of the British to reach North Carolina, and he then, in accordance with General Washington's instructions, sent dispatches by Colonel Gimat his friend and former aide-de-camp, to Cape Henry to be delivered to the Comte de Grasse immediately upon his arrival. He had as yet no knowledge of the coming of General Washington himself, but he was happy in the prospect of the substantial aid of the French fleet and the troops with it, and he was prepared to waive any question of his own rank as commander, to obviate possible friction in the union of the forces. Happily he was not called upon to do this, as the Comte de Saint-Simon though holding high rank in the French army, insisted on taking a place subordinate to the American commander, when, a few days later, the ships appeared, and the troops, which were immediately reëmbarked for the passage up the James, went into camp at Jamestown Island, under the protection of La Fayette's guns. The latter's triumph was now insured and the hard work and skillful strategy of the long and unequal campaign for the possession of Virginia were rewarded with the knowledge that Lord Cornwallis was securely confined in his ill chosen position. Since receiving General Washington's dispatch, La Fayette's chief anxiety had been to prevent the British from making a sudden retreat to the southward, but now, thanks to the forces at his disposal, all danger of this was past and he recalled the outlying divisions that guarded the roads and passes, and moved his camp to a strong position at Williamsburg, but a few miles from the enemy. Early in the summer Lord Cornwallis had written to General Clinton, "The boy cannot escape me," but now with the "boy" and his forces only a few hours' march from his camp he felt unequal to attacking him, and after a reconnoissance settled down to the completion of defensive works at Yorktown and Gloucester, hoping for reinforcements from New York to relieve his situation.



GOV. NELSON'S HOUSE, YORKTOWN

OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH AND BOMBARDED BY ORDER OF ITS OWNER

The Comte de Grasse, out of regard for his obligation to return to San Domingo, wished to begin the attack at once, but in compliance with La Fayette's earnest solicitation, and in deference to the latter's superior knowledge of the situation, he consented to await the arrival of Generals Washington and Rochambeau—whose movements were now known—and their armies. He had reached the Chesapeake on the thirtieth of August and on the fifth of September he was challenged to battle by Admiral Graves, who had succeeded Admiral Arbuthnot at New York and who left there with his fleet in search of the Comte de Barras, who, in connection with the movement on Yorktown, had left Newport with his own ships and a large fleet of transports loaded with the supplies and heavy artillery of the Comte de Rochambeau, and whose departure had been discovered. The Comte de Grasse at once put to sea for greater freedom of action, and a battle ensued in which, as with that of Admirals des Touches and Arbuthnot, no decisive victory was obtained on either side, but which seriously disabled some of the British ships, one of which had to be abandoned and destroyed. Admiral Graves was forced to retire to New York, and the Comte de Grasse although still strong and in an advantageous position was content to return to Chesapeake Bay after waiting some days for a renewal of the engagement, as in view of the responsibilities of his position he wished to take no unnecessary risks. On reaching Cape Henry he found that the Comte de Barras had safely arrived while the opposing fleets were off the coast, having escaped Admiral Graves by a wide detour. This welcome reinforcement assured a sea power ample for the occasion, and the transports were at once unloaded and sent up the bay to the head of the Elk to bring down the waiting troops.

General Washington, with the Comte de Rochambeau and the Marquis de Chastellux having resumed their journey from Mount Vernon, arrived at La Fayette's headquarters at Williamsburg on the fourteenth of September. The reunion was momentous for the Marquis as he not only had the joy of being again with his beloved friend, but he was relieved from the strain and responsibility of his previous sole command, which, especially in its necessity of procuring provisions, had caused him much anxiety. The Comte de Grasse sent the "Queen Charlotte," a luxurious craft which he had captured from the British, to bring General Washington and his companions to his flagship, and they spent several

days there in pleasant and necessary intercourse, the highest military honors being paid to the Commander-in-chief on his arrival and departure. On his return to camp he found among his dispatches one announcing the arrival of Admiral Digby at New York with six ships of the line and additional troops. He at once sent this information to the Comte de Grasse, who, alarmed by this access of power and fearing the return of Admiral Graves with this reinforcement, determined to abandon the Chesapeake which he feared would be blockaded, and await their possible arrival outside the Capes. This decision blasted instantly all hopes and plans that Washington had cherished since leaving New York, and changed the certainty of victory to the almost equal certainty of Cornwallis' immediate escape by water to his former strong position at Portsmouth. To prevent this crushing misfortune Washington despatched La Fayette to the flagship with a most strenuous appeal for a reconsideration of the decision urging the Marquis to use his influence to the utmost to the same end, and the messenger had the pleasure of returning to Williamsburg with the promise of the Admiral to remain and carry out the original plan. The allied troops had now arrived from the head of the Elk and joined those at Williamsburg, and immediate preparations were made for attacking the British position.

On the twenty-eighth of September the American troops and their allies marched from Williamsburg and took up positions surrounding Yorktown. The following day they advanced to within firing distance of the enemy's outer works, and on the morning of the thirtieth they entered these, the British having abandoned them during the night and retreated to the central fortifications. The French ships were drawn up in the river opposite the town, and with the troops steadily closing around him, Lord Cornwallis' position was becoming very serious and he hurriedly sent messengers to New York for aid. General Clinton had discovered too late the error of his orders and had hoped to relieve the post, but the best he could do was to promise to despatch a fleet under Admiral Digby, with five thousand land troops and ample provisions and supplies. Cornwallis believed that he could hold out until the arrival of this succor and it was arranged that on hearing heavy firing at the mouth of the bay, he should send up two columns of smoke to indicate his continued occupation of the town. This time however all elements combined for American success and the help he looked for came too late.

With the Americans under La Fayette on the right, and the French troops on the left, Washington after a week of preparation fired the first gun of the siege on the morning of the seventh of October. The fire was kept up with increasing severity until the eleventh, when a second parallel, but three hundred yards from the enemy's fortifications, was opened. The British had suffered severely, many of their guns being silenced, and on the fourteenth Washington determined to force two outlying redoubts by which the inner works were protected, and which in his hands would make the reduction of the latter easy. One of these was assigned to the American Light Infantry under La Fayette and the other to the regiments of Auvergne and Gatinos under the Baron de Viomenil. The detachments, with fixed bayonets, charged simultaneously in the face of a destructive volley, and in a few minutes the Americans, led by the gallant Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton, had scaled the parapet and taken their redoubt, the British throwing down their arms as the Americans entered. The French commander had expressed a belief that only his troops would succeed in the undertaking, and as he was not yet in possession of his redoubt, La Fayette, jealous of American valor, immediately tendered his assistance, but the Baron answered for the unaided ability of his men and a little later announced his similar victory. Two days later the British, made desperate by the destructive fire from these points, attempted to regain the redoubt held by the French, but were repulsed and driven back to their works with great loss, and as a last resort Lord Cornwallis undertook, under cover of darkness, to remove his troops to Gloucester Point. A rising storm defeated this purpose—of doubtful merit at the best—and he was obliged to bring back the few who had reached the other side, and resign himself to the inevitable end. On the seventeenth of October he opened his negotiations for surrender, and on the next day, the articles, which, at La Fayette's suggestion, were the same as those imposed on General Lincoln at Charleston, were signed. On the nineteenth the British troops, resplendent in new uniforms, marched out between the French and Americans drawn up in lines, and laid down their arms,

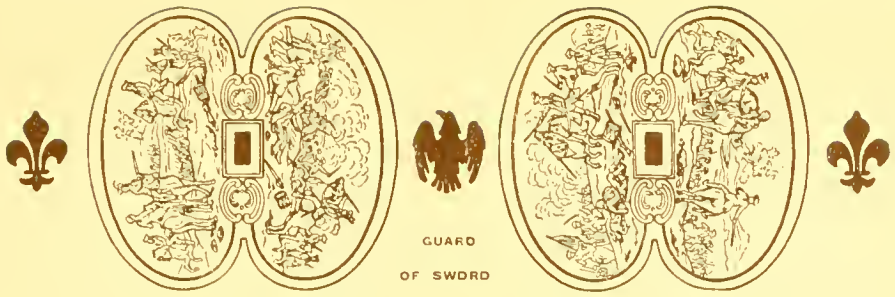
THE SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS' ARMY, YORKTOWN, OCT. 19, 1781
FROM THE PAINTING BY TURNBULL, IN THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON

their bands playing "The World Turned Upside Down," a then popular air. Lord Cornwallis kept his tent, giving illness as an excuse, and sent his apologies by General O'Hara, who delivered his sword to General Lincoln.

Although General Clinton still held New York and had posts at Charleston and Wilmington, Cornwallis' surrender was recognized as the virtual end of the struggle. General Washington, hoping to regain the Carolinas while his troops were flushed with victory, desired the coöperation of the Comte de Grasse in the reduction of Charleston, or at least the aid of his ships to transport reinforcements under La Fayette to General Greene, but satisfied that he had accomplished all that should be required of him under the circumstances of his visit to the American coast, the French Admiral felt himself obliged to deny this request, and La Fayette, seeing no further opportunity for active service, obtained General Washington's permission to visit Philadelphia and petition Congress for leave to return to France to spend the winter. This request was immediately granted and resolutions were passed eulogizing his services in Virginia and accrediting him to the Ministers at Versailles as a qualified representative of the United States in matters pertaining to its needs. He was also made the bearer of a letter to King Louis XVI, and the frigate "Alliance" was again designated to convey him across the Atlantic. He sailed from Boston on the twenty-third of December, 1781, and after a very short voyage landed in France, where the account of his triumph had preceded him and he was received with high honors.

The youth whose high resolution had prevailed over royal bans, had, by force of his manliness and proved abilities, passed from indulgent recognition in the American army to enduring fame in its history, and gained the irrequitable affection of the people of his adopted country. His expected return to service under Washington was deferred at the request of Franklin, who greatly appreciated his help in securing the many benefits still required of France, and the termination of the war found him thus engaged.

Firmly established in the esteem and affection of all classes in his native land, he settled down to the quiet joys of his family life, little knowing how soon these were to give place to the turbulence and anarchy, separation and bereavement of the yet unheralded French Revolution. Before this second era of his life however, he crossed the ocean once more to visit his beloved friend General Washington, with whom he spent some weeks at Mount Vernon in the fall of 1784, and then, after a tour of a few of the scenes of his activities, he bade him a final farewell and sailed from Boston on his return to France.



PRESENTED TO LA FAYETTE BY CONGRESS

At an age when young men customarily enter upon active life, La Fayette returned to the affairs of his native country, mature in experience and flattered with exceptional distinction. The monarchy of France, undermined by the excesses of three reigns, though still exhibiting the habitual appearance of strength, tottered on the verge of a revolutionary abyss. Excessive taxation and despotic rule exhausted and prostrated the producing classes and raised discontent almost to resistance, while the revenue thus extorted was inadequate to meet the requirements of national obligations and royal extravagance. Louis XVI and his luxurious court lived only for display and private gratification, while one after another, ministers of finance sought in vain to supply their ever increasing demands. The American Revolution, so generously aided, had drained the treasury to the danger point and the only hope of recuperation lay in wise administration and radical economy. The former was available and the latter had been repeatedly urged but such was the influence of the nobles whose patronage was menaced that no headway could be made in this direction, and added taxation of the people was the only resource applauded.

Turgot, whose wise reforms were unpalatable, was succeeded by Necker, who also brought skill and high purpose to his office and inspired confidence in the people. He in turn was forced to give way to M. de Calonne, who revived an appearance of prosperity by negotiating ruinous loans, but who, toward the end of 1786, was obliged to announce the virtual bankruptcy of France, and realizing that retrenchment was imperative, urged the King to call together an Assembly of Notables in the hope that this body could and would impose such measures. La Fayette, although in disfavor with many of his class because of his liberal tendencies, was made a member of the body thus instituted and proved its most potent influence. The Assembly recommended minor reforms and having investigated Calonne's record, secured his dismissal, but it could not be brought to indorse the pleas of La Fayette for the abolition of wasteful ceremonies and patronage, and the equitable distribution of taxation. Realizing the futility of its further deliberation he startled the Assembly and the Court by calling for the convocation of the States General — a memory of a less enthralled France of nearly two hundred years before. Louis agreed to do this and named the year 1792 for the inauguration, hoping that in the meantime public confidence would be restored and that the Government would then be in a strong position, but dissatisfaction continued and he was obliged to issue the summons for May, 1789. This was in thought and deed the actual beginning of the revolution that engulfed France in the most barbaric tumult of destruction that history has recorded. La Fayette looked forward to radical changes in the system of government but he believed that these would come peaceably as a result of philosophic influences, and with his innate and cultivated love of liberty he placed himself in the forefront of every movement to secure its blessings for his countrymen.

At the appointed time deputies to the number of twelve hundred, representing the nobility, the clergy, and the people—or Third Estate—elected by their peers after an exciting campaign, assembled at the church of Notre Dame de Paris, and the next day at Versailles were received by the King and addressed by Necker, reinstated Minister of Finance. The adoption of methods of procedure occupied several weeks and but for the insistence of the Third Estate upon its right, numerical and political, to dominate and constitute the body parliamentary, effective organization would have been impossible as the Nobility and Clergy, though separately less in number, claimed the right to vote as bodies which thus combined could defeat the people. In the end, however, they were obliged to accept the organization of the Third Estate and vote as individuals.

La Fayette had been elected to represent the nobles of Auvergne and he found himself in an anomalous position as in this contest his sympathies were with the people. While he was considering the resigning of his seat to seek election to the Commons, his dilemma was solved by a royal order commanding the Nobles and Clergy, many of whom had already gone over to the dominant body, to recede from their position and join the popular organization. This ascendency of the people was reflected by rioting at Paris and Versailles, and the impending civil conflict was hastened by the concentration of the King's troops to quell these disturbances. The first and most important act of the Assembly was the consideration of a "Declaration of Rights" introduced by La Fayette which formulated on a high and enlightened plane the rights and dues of the people, and which became the basis of subsequent enactments.

Notwithstanding his ambition to lead in the parliamentary emancipation of his countrymen, which was assured by his being elected Vice-President of the "States General," La Fayette was destined for other and more strenuous activities and he was soon called from the Assembly to the command of a body of Militia called the National Guard, organized to subdue the more violent elements of the populace which the royal troops were unable to control. In this position, with the rapidly growing tendency toward anarchy, he soon became the most prominent figure of the revolution, and, until the final upheaval, when, intoxicated with power the ascendent terrorists threw off all restraint and shed noble blood in rivers, he was the only one capable of standing effectively between royalty and the clamoring mob.

The necessity for this organization was made manifest by the uprising at Paris which followed the dismissal of Necker from the Ministry to which he had been returned to gratify the people. His plans were too radical for the Court, and with other ministers favorable to the popular interests he was requested to secretly depart. The news of this and the presence of German troops, which the King had brought to overawe malcontents incited them to riot, to quell which the Provost of Merchants, the nearest to recognized authority, was called on to enroll a civic guard which armed itself from the public arsenals and later under the badge of the tricolor proposed by La Fayette, became the National Guard. The opening day of this enrollment was signalized by a demonstration around the hated Bastile, the hitherto impregnable prison where for centuries had languished justly or unjustly the offenders of royalty. Throughout the night the mob continued to gather and on the morning following, the memorable fourteenth of July, began an attack which late in the afternoon compelled its surrender. Its fall and demolition symbolized the extinguishment of royal power and oppression, and its anniversary has become the chief national holiday of France.

The task that La Fayette found awaiting him was difficult almost to the point of discouragement. The line between mob domination and the supremacy of his motley National Guard was so precarious and doubtful that order and discipline were matters of passing impulse and influence, sometimes yielding to his exhortations and again surging uncontrollably in an opposite course. With Jean Sylvain Bailly, formerly president of the Assembly, now appointed Mayor of Paris, he shared authority transcending that of the King, whom indeed it was given him later to direct and eventually to arrest.

In the States General the Comte de Mirabeau led the debate and strove for the enactment of a constitution on which to base a reformed political system, while in the faubourgs and the "Palais Royal"—a popular forum—"Sanscullotism" banded for pillage and destruction. Destitution and hunger are grievances on which a mob can speedily be raised and a throng of determined women moved by these incentives, gathered at the Hotel de Ville on the fifth of October, 1789, and routing a company of the National Guard took possession of the building. To get them out it was proposed, insincerely, to lead them to Versailles, and a citizen named Maillard seized a drum and led the way, followed by the "Menads" who enlisted or impressed every member of their sex, of high or low degree, who came upon the scene, and not to be swerved from their course straggled in a noisy and ever increasing horde—followed by sympathizers of every description—over the fifteen miles of muddy road in a drizzling rain, to the royal palace where they demanded bread. La Fayette, starting some hours afterward, arrived about midnight with his National Guard, which from fear of its loyalty under such con-

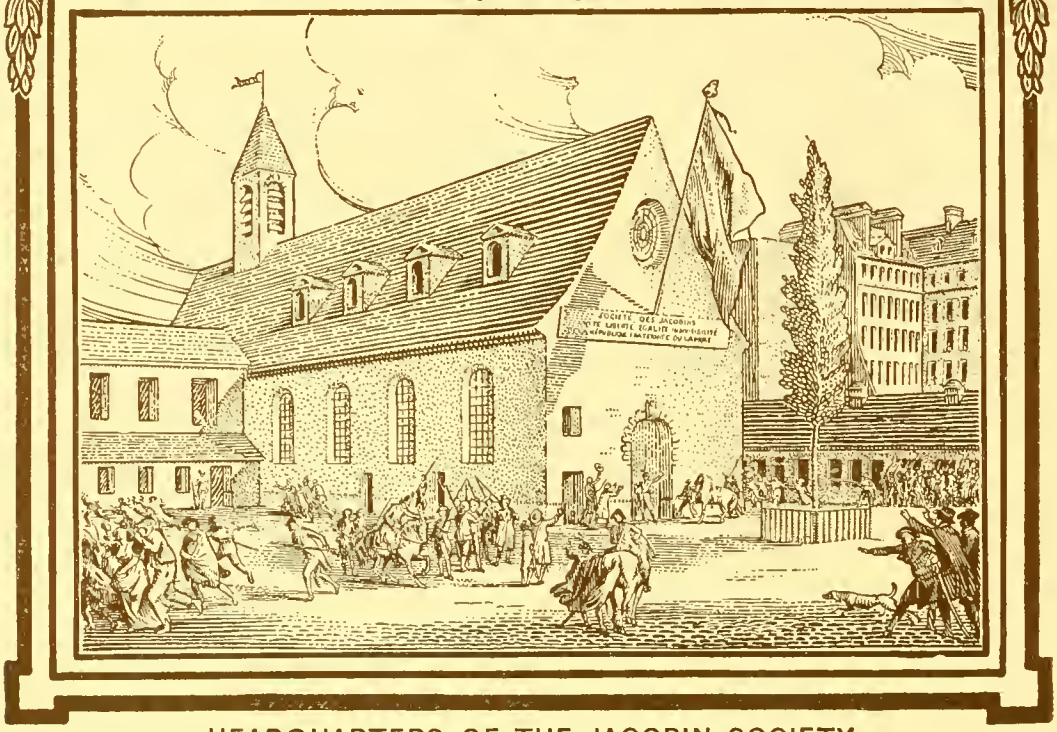
CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME DE PARIS
IN WHICH THE STATES-GENERAL CONVENED, MAY 4, 1789

ditions he had kept in Paris until the King's danger became evident. He reassured Louis and the Assembly, which was still in session, and about five o'clock in the morning retired for a short rest having been without sleep for twenty-four hours. He had hardly lain down when he was recalled to the palace by a conflict which was precipitated between a party of marauders and the Life Guards, and which, but for his presence and the services of the National Guards, would have resulted disastrously for the royal family, whose apartments were invaded by a mob. Later in the day he gave public evidence of the devotion to the King and Queen, and his popularity caused them to be received with cheers, the people dispersing on his assurance that they would accompany him to Paris. Under his escort they were taken to the Tuileries, followed peaceably by a procession of one hundred thousand, and although no personal restraint was as yet exercised they were from that time virtually prisoners.

The Duc d'Orleans, cousin of Louis XVI, dissolute of character and a recognized enemy of the King, was suspected of complicity in the attack at Versailles and was forced to retire to England by La Fayette, whom all parties acknowledged as the savior of the royal family. Following the Insurrection of Women, the Assembly—which to be near the King had transferred its place of meeting to one of the halls of the Tuileries—while enacting the constitution abolished *lettres de cachet*, an arbitrary form of arrest, proclaimed ecclesiastical estates confiscated to the Government, and on the basis of this property issued eight hundred million francs in paper *assignats*. This reckless expedient caused the final resignation of Necker, who in response to popular clamor had been again recalled to the Ministry of Finance. Religious orders were suppressed, taxes on salt and corn repealed, jury trial instituted, and all titles of nobility abolished, with which last decree La Fayette, who had urged its adoption, consistently complied although in later years other régimes brought a general return to monarchial titles.

At this time a new menace to rational administration made its appearance in the Rue St. Honore where a club called the Jacobins, from the religious order whose convent they occupied, gathered nightly to the number of a thousand or more and promulgated incendiary doctrines. Its membership included the most radical and unprincipled leaders in the Assembly, and to counteract its effects La Fayette organized an association called the Feuillans or Moderates, which for upwards of a year and a half held it materially in check, but which was then dispersed by the flight of a majority of its members during the events leading to the Reign of Terror emanating from its rival.

To fittingly celebrate the anniversary of the taking of the Bastile and thereby cement the bonds of patriotism and brotherhood, a grand fête was planned for the fourteenth of July, 1790, when all National Authorities should swear allegiance "to the King, to Law and to the Nation." By the voluntary labor of the inhabitants of Paris of both sexes and all ages and ranks, the Champ de Mars, a spacious plain set apart for military manœuvres, was transformed to an immense amphitheater with an impressive altar and festooned colonnades and arches. On the



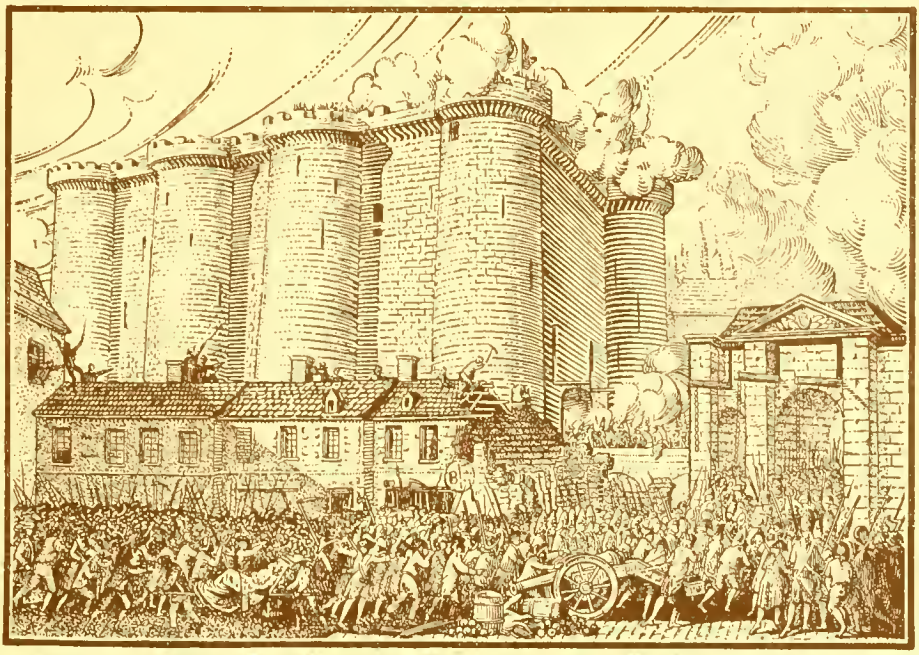
HEADQUARTERS OF THE JACOBIN SOCIETY
THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE REIGN OF TERROR

morning of the festival, La Fayette, who was master of ceremonies by virtue of the temporary command of the National Guard of France delegated to him by the King, arrived at the head of a procession of sixty thousand federalists, soldiers and deputies, and after the celebration of mass by the Bishop of Autun and three hundred priests, amid the booming of cannon, he descended from his horse and presenting himself at the throne received from the King the form of the oath, which he carried to the National Altar and pronounced to the assembly of five hundred thousand persons, his words echoed by the Army, the President of the National Assembly, the Deputies and the King. "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" reigned throughout the day and night, and promised a future free from strife and intrigue, but the sun of another day brought its paramount emotions submerging the glorious federation in new and greater animosities.

On the twenty-eighth of the following February a mob from the Faubourg Saint Antoine, the most lawless district of Paris, attacked the prison at Vincennes under the leadership of Santerre, a brewer subsequently to become more ignobly prominent. Before they succeeded in liberating the prisoners La Fayette arrived and put them to rout. While he was thus occupied he was summoned to the Palace of the Tuileries, some five miles distant, where it had been discovered by the National Guard that all the dependents of the King, rallying as by arrangement, were armed with daggers. It probably was to defend the King should the Saint Antoine mob descend on the Tuileries that this arrangement was made, but the Guards professed to believe it a conspiracy to abduct Louis, and before the return of La Fayette they had disarmed and violently ejected the courtiers.

Following closely upon these alarms the National Assembly and the true cause of the people lost an heroic figure whose influence for good was second only to La Fayette's. This was the Comte de Mirabeau, whose motives were often questioned, whose methods were resented, and whose private character was assailed, but whose public acts were the embodiment of strength and wisdom, a force and a balance on occasion, and whose continued activity would have tempered Jacobinism. He died on the second of April, 1791, and was buried on the fourth, amid general and sincere mourning and demonstration.

Toward the middle of this month the announcement was made that the King for the benefit of his health would pass the Easter season at Saint Cloud, the real



THE STORMING OF THE BASTILE, JULY 14, 1789

ITS FALL AND DEMOLITION WERE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

reason of his excursion being his desire to receive the ministration of a priest not sworn to the new civil orders, which, in common with many devout Catholics, he regarded as an infringement on moral and ecclesiastical rights. On the eighteenth of April, in accordance with this plan he started in his state carriage but was immediately stopped by a crowd that blocked his way. La Fayette hastened to the scene, and, appreciating the delicacy of his motives, offered to open a passage at any cost, but the King would not permit the attempt, and leaving the carriage returned to the palace. The suspicion that the King was about to flee, though unjust on this occasion, was however warranted, and preparations were then making for the event. On the evening of the twenty-first of June the royal family with trusted attendants left the Palace of the Tuileries and in several closed carriages were carried northward where the support of the army defending the frontier was depended upon. The undertaking was badly managed and at Varennes the heavy coach containing the King and Queen was blocked by an obstructed bridge which suspicious town officials, warned by intelligence now sent broadcast, had piled with wagons and lumber. Close by, on the other side of the bridge, was an advance guard of the army, sent to meet the refugees, but its commander, a son of General Broglie, one of the King's most trusted officers, had, owing to the lateness of the hour, ceased to look for them, and retired for the night. Thus detained, where deliverance was looked for, the party was overtaken and arrested soon afterward by a company of National Guards and escorted back ignominiously to Paris to be more closely guarded until, a year later, after a few months' freedom following the acceptance of the constitution they were imprisoned in the Temple, from whence after predetermined trials they issued to the guillotine—Louis XVI on the twenty-first of January, 1793, and Marie Antoinette on the sixteenth of the next October.

Early in September, 1791, after the Federation and the flight to Varennes, the long-looked-for Constitution was completed and accepted by the King, and the Constituent Assembly—formerly the States General—having finished its work terminated its sittings and dissolved. Its last acts decreed the King exempt from punishment for his attempted flight, and, on the initiative of La Fayette, authorized the freeing of all prisoners held for offenses growing out of the Revolution. The proposal to absolve the King from responsibility for his flight aroused bitter

antagonism from the Jacobins, and before it was enacted a petition to the Assembly urging his dethronement was started on the altar at the Champ de Mars and signed by a multitude of Jacobin sympathizers, who having created a disturbance were fired upon and dispersed, several being killed—by the National Guards under La Fayette and by the authority of Mayor Bailly, who proclaimed them guilty of disorderly conduct. With the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, La Fayette resigned his command of the National Guards, which he avowedly held only to preserve order until the Constitution should be established, and retired to his home in Chavaniac taking with him a sword forged from bolts of the Bastile and presented as a token of the esteem of his Guards. With all others of the better classes he believed the destiny of the nation happily settled and he looked forward to peace at his country estate.

NATIONAL FEDERATION IN CHAMP DE MARS
JULY 14, 1790

The Constitution from which so much was expected failed unmistakably, however, to fulfill its mission and the new Legislative Assembly elected under it lacked the capacity of its predecessor, whose members had specifically decreed that none of their number should be eligible to membership in the new body. Internal troubles appeared and multiplied, and early in 1792 these were augmented by a declaration of war against Austria. This brought La Fayette again to the front, as at the request of the King he was appointed to command the Army of the Center, one of three divisions of the French forces, with headquarters at Maubeuge, in Flanders near the Prussian frontier. From his camp at this place he wrote to the Assembly, in part as follows, denouncing the instigators of the high-handed violences which were rending his country:—"Can you dissemble even to yourselves, that a faction (and to avoid all vague denunciation), the Jacobin faction, have caused all these disorders? It is that which I boldly accuse—organized like a separate empire in the metropolis, and in its affiliated societies, blindly directed by some ambitious leaders, this sect forms a *corporation entirely distinct* in the midst of the French people, whose powers it usurps by tyrannizing over its representatives and constituted authorities." The Jacobins, in consternation at this arraignment, declared the letter to be forged, on which La Fayette left his army and appeared at the bar of the Assembly to repeat with emphasis his accusations and plead for the respect and authority guaranteed the King by the Constitution. In this he was too late, as a mob which invaded the Tuileries on the twentieth of June on the pretext of petitioning the King to withdraw his vetoes of two revolutionary decrees, had hopelessly violated the dignity of the royal presence and foreshadowed the repression and dethronement soon to follow. Realizing that the Constitution was practically overthrown, La Fayette, who still enlisted an ardent following, planned to remove the royal family to the frontier, pledging the protection of his army, but the King with fatal perversity refused his good offices and he reluctantly returned to his command.

Insurrection had now infected outlying districts and a body of its votaries to the number of five hundred marched from Marseilles and were received as

heroes in Paris on the eve of the anniversary of the Federation, which was repeated in a mockery of its former spontaneity. Frightened by La Fayette's denunciation, the Jacobins endeavored to secure his impeachment by the Assembly but were outvoted two to one and were forced to adopt more radical measures to overthrow the Moderates who still cherished the Constitution in name. They had for weeks sought in vain for some apparent provocation by the Court which could serve as a rallying cry for the Faubourgs, and crystallize insurrection that would dethrone the King. The supporters of La Fayette were now insulted without and within the Assembly, and under the leadership of George Jacques Danton, who exhorted the people to rise and save themselves from external and internal enemies, an uprising was accomplished which, invading the Tuileries, forced the King to seek protection of the Assembly, and massacred the valiant Swiss, who alone of all his constitutional defenders had remained loyal and efficient until his subservience to his dictators caused him to order them to cease resistance. The King was declared dethroned, and with his family was imprisoned in the Temple, while the Court and the Constitutionalists sought safety in flight. Aristocrats active and passive, for no reason but their presumed sympathy with royalty, were by hundreds thrown into prison, many to be delivered only when the tumbrels carried them to the guillotine under the decrees of the September tribunals.

When the intentions of the revolutionists were obvious, La Fayette had sent messengers to again implore the King to avail himself of the protection of the army, but he was once more rebuffed and his plan becoming known he was denounced as a traitor and enemy of the people. Under the style of the Commune of August 10th the Jacobins usurped the government of Paris, and still fearing La Fayette's popularity sent commissioners to conciliate him with offers of high office if he would ally himself to their cause, but on their arrival at Sedan he caused them to be arrested and imprisoned, paying no heed to their overtures. He renewed his army's oath of fidelity to the Constitution but deputies from Paris soon corrupted it, and realizing that further effort was useless he gathered a few of his most intimate friends and set out for Belgium from whence he could make his way to England or America. To do this they were obliged to cross the path of the Austrian army, to which they had recently been opposed, and one of the party went to headquarters to obtain the necessary passports. These would have been immediately forthcoming but for the fact that the presence of La Fayette was noted, and as he was regarded by foreign courts as the instigator of the Revolution the whole party was arrested and taken to the fortress of Wesel where the rigors of the confinement in a damp cell prostrated their leader. He was told that his condition would be ameliorated if he would give information to aid the Austrians, but as he spurned this offer he was treated with greater severity. After some months at Wesel the prisoners were transferred to Magdebourg, where they were placed in dungeons and debarred a sight of the sky or each other for nearly six months, when, it being evident that life could not be maintained under such conditions, they were given a daily airing in the court yard.

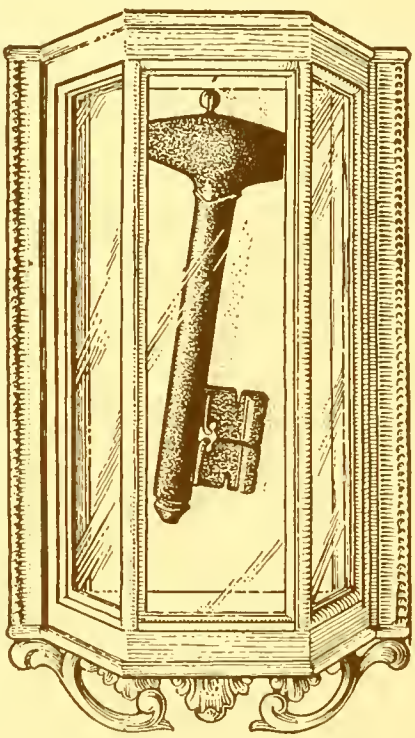
While La Fayette languished in prison, events moved rapidly in France. Successively lower elements of Jacobinism gained control through the imprisonment or execution of former leaders. The King and Queen were executed, Marat, one of the most venomous and unprincipled instigators of anarchy, was assassinated by virtuous Charlotte Corday; Danton was guillotined to make way for Hébert, and he in turn to elevate Robespierre. The war of La Vendee, in southern France, engaged hundreds of thousands, and the guillotine and even shooting being inadequate to dispose of the prisoners of the revolutionists, thousands were drowned, men, women and children together, penned in hulks that were sent to the bottom of the Loire. Madame de La Fayette and her children were arrested and would have been executed but for the intervention of Gouverneur Morris, American Minister to France, who also advanced a large sum of money to relieve the distress of the family, many of whose estates were confiscated and whose revenue was cut off. The Marechale de Noailles, grandmother of Madame de La Fayette, the Duchess d'Ayen her mother, and the Vicomtesse de Noailles were carried to the guillotine together, and the loss of these beloved intimates added greatly to her other misfortunes.

With the tide of war favoring the French against the Prussians and Austrians it was deemed wise by the coalition to remove La Fayette to Austrian

territory, and he was taken to Olmütz where his hardships were further increased and he was told that his identity would be forever lost in a prison number by which he would be designated in all communications and records, as he was regarded as most dangerous to monarchial institutions and it was desired to reduce him to political if not actual death. During these years of imprisonment his friends in Europe and America petitioned frequently for his release without other effect than to further convince his captors of his importance to the cause they sought to crush. One of his old friends, however, the Comte Lally-Tollendal, made the acquaintance in London of Dr. Erick Bollman, a Hanoverian who had aided in the escape of other French prisoners, and Dr. Bollman, who was an enthusiastic admirer of La Fayette, agreed to undertake his release.

In the autumn of 1794, some six months after the General had been taken to Olmütz, Dr. Bollmann, having learned that important personages were confined in this prison, went there and by means of a professional acquaintance with the physician who attended him, he conveyed to La Fayette information of his plan of rescue. With Dr. Bollmann was associated Francis Kinlock Huger, a son of Col. Benjamin Huger who had first received La Fayette on his arrival in America. They learned that owing to his low state of health the prisoner was taken each day on a short drive under guard, and they planned to intercept his carriage, and taking him by force to carry him hastily to the town of Hoff, where a carriage would be stationed to bear him out of the country. To avoid suspicion the execution of this arrangement was delayed for some months, during which Dr. Bollmann visited Vienna, but eventually everything was ready, and as La Fayette and a guard were walking behind the carriage on a country road, the attendant was overpowered and La Fayette placed on horseback with a hurried direction in English from young Huger, to go to Hoff. The guards in the carriage, instead of assisting their fellow, drove rapidly away and but for the escape of one of the conspirators' horses during the attack all would undoubtedly have been well. As only two horses could be brought, it was some time before the rescuers could recover this one and proceed to Hoff, and on their arrival they found no trace of the fugitive. The attempt had therefore failed and it was learned afterward, that, in the haste of the admonition, La Fayette had understood that he was to *go off* and had taken a road which eventually brought him to the village of Jagersdorff, where he was detained as a suspicious person, and two days later carried back to Olmütz. Huger and Dr. Bollmann were very soon apprehended and they were held in prison, chained to the walls of their cells, for eight months, with sentence of death threatened, when they were released through the intercession of the Count Metrowsky, a generous nobleman living near the prison, whom they had never seen but whose sympathies were aroused by their predicament.

Madame de La Fayette had been again arrested at her home at Chavaniac and carried to Paris to await execution, when the counter-revolution of "Thermidor," the July of the new style, sent the dreaded Robespierre to the guillotine to which he had consigned so many, and the Jacobins being finally deposed in the revulsion of popular feeling, their prisoners were generally released; Madame de La Fayette did not immediately profit by this delivery, however, and it was some months before she was freed, and then only through the efforts of the American Minister. Distracted by her afflictions and her inability to communicate with her husband, she determined to go to Austria and plead in his behalf. She took her two daughters, her son George Washington La Fayette having been sent to

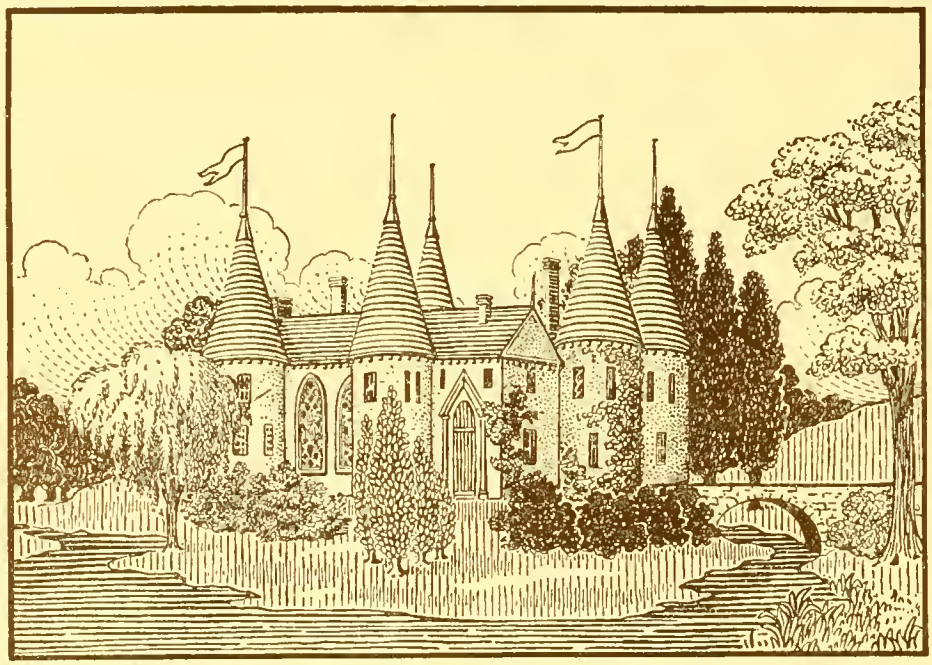


KEY OF THE BASTILE
Presented to Washington by La Fayette
Now at Mount Vernon. Reproduced
by permission

LA FAYETTE, COMMANDER NAT'L GUARD
METROPOLITAN ART MUSEUM. BY PERMISSION

the care of friends in America, and made the journey to Vienna by way of Hamburg, where she was aided by the American consul, Mr. John Parish, who gave her passports under the name of Madame Motier of Hartford, Connecticut. Through the influence of the Prince de Rosenberg, a family friend, she was received by the Emperor, who declared it impossible to liberate her husband but who granted her request to be allowed, with her children, to share his captivity. She therefore went at once to Olmütz and, without premonition, the doors of his cell opened and he beheld those whose continued existence was his dearest hope, but whom he feared he should never again be permitted to see. For two years the family were thus together, Madame de La Fayette and the children occupying an adjoining cell and spending much of each day with the General, whose health and spirits greatly improved in their company. Madame de La Fayette suffered extremely however from the confinement and neglect of the prison, and after having been there nearly a year begged permission to go to Vienna for the benefit of her health, but on being informed that she might depart never to return, she resigned her considerations of personal welfare for the happiness of her husband, and remained with him until in September, 1797, they, with his companions in the flight from Maubeuge, were released on the demand of Napoleon Bonaparte, who at the head of the French army had driven the Prussians from his adopted land and now menaced Vienna while dictating a treaty, one of the most imperative and strenuously resisted provisions of which was this delivery of Frenchmen who were even then unacceptable to France. This consideration was largely brought about by violent agitation of the matter in England where prominent generals and members of Parliament, his former enemies, united in his behalf under the spur of newspaper articles written by a French sympathizer. His friend Charles Fox appealed to the House of Commons in behalf of "that noble character, which will flourish in the annals of the world, and live in the veneration of posterity, when kings and the crowns they wear will be no more regarded than the dust to which they must return."

For two years after his release La Fayette lived in exile in the Netherlands, his wife latterly returning to France to seek in their depleted estates relief from the financial embarrassment in which they now found themselves. In these straits two bequests from unknown admirers, amounting to twenty thousand dollars, were most happily received and provided amply until his own affairs were composed. Late in the fall of 1799 Napoleon, returning unexpectedly from Egypt, seized the government from the Directory and proclaimed himself First Consul on the foundation of the revolution of 1789; La Fayette took this proclamation literally and conceiving himself safe in France, returned at once, but in so doing he incurred the enmity of the dictator, who feared that the great Constitutionalist, through his public spirit and popularity, would endanger his plans for the subversion of authority, of which the protestation of republicanism was but a transparent cloak. La Fayette had no desire, however, to again enter the struggle, and aside from the giving of advice when sought, and holding himself in readiness to rejoin the army if his services should be required, he took little part in



THE CHATEAU LA GRANGE: LA BRIE, NEAR PARIS

LA FAYETTE'S LATER HOME, HIS ONLY REMAINING ESTATE AFTER THE CONFISCATIONS OF THE REVOLUTION

affairs, and retired to the tranquillity of his wife's estate of La Grange, which was to be the home of his declining years. Here he devoted himself to retrieving in a small way his scattered fortunes, and paying, as he was able, the debts incurred by loans to his family while he was in prison. Agriculture was his fixed occupation, and charity and intercourse with friends his cherished pleasures. Many illustrious visitors from other lands made the pilgrimage to La Grange to renew treasured acquaintance, or to testify their respect for his noble character. Napoleon held him in high personal regard, though constantly fearing the possibilities of his popularity and unwavering patriotism, and he sought in many ways to enlist him in his cause, but without avail. La Fayette hoped for a Napoleon without selfishness, but he clearly saw that the great General's power would be used for his own aggrandizement, and in disappointment he remained silent and aloof.

From this retirement he emerged to become a member of the Representative Assembly when Napoleon, returning from Elba, reëstablished himself on the throne and palliated his usurpation with constitutional professions. La Fayette was one of a committee of five who endeavored to prevent his reaccession, and at the end of the turbulent Hundred Days it was he who forced Napoleon's abdication. For the last time, after long retirement, he lent his influence in national affairs in the revolution of 1830, when in the sanguinary outburst against Charles X, he was called to Paris and persuaded to accept the command of the National Guard, for which he was borne to the Hotel de Ville on the shoulders of his friends. After a few days of bitter struggle Louis Philippe was set upon the throne, to be coldly received by the assembled people until La Fayette became his sponsor, and then enthusiastically applauded. He remained in reluctant command of the National Guard, which was reorganized soon afterward, and rendered indispensable service, until, on the return of settled conditions he tendered his resignation, which was readily accepted by the distrustful monarch who viewed with repugnance his lieutenant's tremendous popularity.

Not long after his retirement to La Grange La Fayette had the misfortune to slip on the ice while visiting the Ministry of Marine in Paris, and his hip was broken in the fall. He elected to endure the tortures of a newly invented apparatus for preventing the shortening of the leg in such cases, and for weeks endured his sufferings with such fortitude that the attending physicians were not

aware that the bandages were much too tight, and on the removal of these the muscles were found to be so mutilated that further operations were required, and it was feared that amputation would be necessary. He recovered however with but slight permanent lameness.

His children married and made their home with him, and their children brightened the numerous circle at the chateau. The privations of his meager income were cheerfully borne by all, and were chiefly regretted because of the limits which were imposed upon their habits of charity, which nevertheless continued to be a blessing to their humble neighbors. The great sorrow of the General's life came upon him on Christmas eve, 1807, when Madame de La Fayette passed away. She had never been able to eradicate from her system blood poison which developed in the prison of Olmütz, and now at the age of forty-seven it prostrated and overwhelmed her. While racked with pain and wasting from innumerable eruptions she maintained the buoyant and unselfish spirit that was her heritage and distinction, and the parting from her husband, as revealed in his tender tribute to her virtues, most fittingly and passionately crowned a life of love and devotion. While accepting his bereavement with the calmness and resignation characteristic of earlier adversities, he never ceased to mourn his loss, and devoted a portion of each morning to contemplation of her portrait, which he wore in a locket hanging from his neck. On the gold back of this were engraved these, among her last words to him: *"Je vous fus donc une douce compagne, eh bien! benissez moi!"*

There was yet reserved for him however a pleasure that it is given to few to enjoy, that of visiting in its assured prosperity a nation whose beginning he had labored for. In accordance with a resolution of Congress he was invited by President Monroe early in 1824 to visit the United States as a guest of the nation. The invitation placed a man-of-war at his disposal for the voyage, but he modestly declined this honor, and with his son and M. Levasseur, his secretary, sailed on the American ship "Cadmus" from Havre, July thirteenth of that year, and arrived at Staten Island on the sixteenth of August.

Welcomed with every conceivable honor, he traversed, for more than a year, the length and breadth of the country, sustaining with hearty joy and remarkable vigor an ovation unabated from his landing at New York to his embarkation from the same port. Particularly affecting were his reunions with those of his old comrades whom the ravages of time had spared, and his pilgrimage to the tomb of Washington at Mount Vernon; while, on the battlefields of other days he lived again the scenes of his early consecration to liberty. From New York, Boston was his next objective point, reached by way of New Haven, New London and Providence, and after his reception there and a visit to Harvard College, he continued east to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, stopping at Salem and Newburyport, where a pleasant incident occurred which is thus reported in the Newburyport Herald of September third, 1824:—

"Of the many veterans of the Continental army who were presented to the General none produced a stronger title to notice than Mr. Daniel Foster who is the only man in this town belonging to La Fayette's select corps of Light Infantry. He was a non-commissioned officer therein, of course constantly about the General, and possesses now the very sword which the General gave him in common with other officers of that his favorite and most excellent corps. Mr. Foster held his sword before the General when introduced, with emotions of honest pride, and stating the circumstances welcomed the General to our shores and told him that he was proud to see him once more on American soil and that his sons participated in the joyful occasion. When La Fayette learned that one of his own infantry stood before him, who had commanded his quarter-guard, and when he saw his own mark on the blade of the sword, half drawn from the scabbard, he greeted his old soldier very cordially and assured him that he looked upon him as one of his own family."

LA FAYETTE PITCHER
Independence Hall, Philadelphia
Reproduced by permission

He returned by way of Hartford to New York, where on September sixth, his sixty-seventh birthday, the Society of the Cincinnati gave a banquet in his honor. From that city he set out for Philadelphia, stopping at Trenton for a brief visit to Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon I, who had been his sincere friend in France, and from Philadelphia he went to Baltimore and Washington with many halts at intervening places. Virginia, teeming with associations of his memorable campaign, welcomed him with unbounded gratitude at Yorktown, Williamsburg, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond, and Petersburg. Charleston, Savannah, and New Orleans echoed his welcome, the latter city especially, with its large French population, receiving him with pride as well as affection. He passed safely through a shipwreck on the Ohio river on which occasion the captain's chief regret, notwithstanding the loss of his vessel and a large sum of money on board, was the jeopardy in which he had put the nation's guest. In June, 1825, he again visited Boston and on the seventeenth of that month, just fifty years after the famous battle whose echoes had reached him at Metz, he laid the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument and received the eulogy which Daniel Webster, the orator of the occasion, included in his memorable address.

Many years before, Congress had allotted to him, in Louisiana, the large tract of land which under the system of reward for Revolutionary service was due his rank of major general. Soon afterward, and before he had entered upon this grant, the land was inadvertently included in a cession to the city of New Orleans, to which it was adjacent, and although La Fayette was advised that he could hold it by reason of prior title he refused to antagonize any American interest and renounced his claim. On his return to Washington after touring the country, he was received in state by Congress, and as a recompense for the conversion of his land, as well as a national testimonial, he was presented two hundred thousand dollars, appropriated by a unanimous vote of all parties.

La Fayette returned to France on the United States frigate "Brandywine," arriving at Havre on the fifth of October, 1825. His journey to La Grange was marked by popular ovations in spite of attempted repression by the Government, which was ever watchful for incipient revolution. The years immediately following his return from America were passed quietly at La Grange, his influence being continually manifest, however, through his advice, which was constantly sought by leaders of the Assembly. He was journeying to visit his son at Chavaniac when the forebodings of the revolution of 1830, previously noted, reached Auvergne, and his modest excursion was changed to a triumphal march by the people, who instinctively looked to him for delivery from despotism. After his efficient service on this occasion, and his final relinquishment of the command of the National Guard, he served again in the Chamber of Deputies, and retained a measure of activity until his death at Paris on the twentieth of May, 1834.

He was buried beside his wife in the Picpus cemetery which she had helped to establish as a resting place for the martyrs of the Reign of Terror, and his funeral was an imposing testimonial of the universal appreciation of his character. Ministers, deputies, government officials, educational and philanthropic bodies, and his beloved National Guard, made up a vast procession which followed his remains, while the church bells of France and all surrounding countries where liberty was established in any degree, tolled throughout the day.

In America Congress and the people, on learning of his death, adopted a badge of mourning, and the same honors were paid to his memory by the army and navy as had been paid to that of General Washington. John Quincy Adams delivered an address on his life and character before both houses of Congress and fervent eulogies were pronounced in all the cities and centers of the country.

His career lacked the culmination of such high office as is often deemed the measure and meed of success, and his abilities were not extraordinary; but his gentle, steadfast, and unassailable character, and his high and unwavering devotion to the oppressed of two continents, gained for him a place in the affections of his contemporaries and the regard of succeeding generations, that transcends political sovereignty.

PORTRAIT BY ARY SCHEFFER — PRESENTED TO CONGRESS BY LA FAYETTE

THE LA FAYETTE

Table Flatware illustrated on the following pages is a reproduction of a time honored Colonial design, the counterpart of many cherished heirlooms whose early owners were the matrons of the period of the Revolution. It is made in Sterling Silver, 925 1000 fine, of substantial construction and sufficient variety for moderate or extensive chest combinations.

TOWLE MFG. COMPANY, SILVERSMITHS

NEWBURYPORT MASSACHUSETTS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
42 MADISON STREET

NEW YORK CITY
41 UNION SQUARE

THE TOWLE MFG. COMPANY DOES NO RETAIL BUSINESS

Tea Spoon
No. 11

Tea Spoon
Nos. 13, 15, 18 and 21

Dessert Fork
Nos. 28 and 36

Table Fork
Nos. 36 and 45

Coffee Spoon

Tea Spoon, P.M.

ACTUAL SIZE
TRADE MARK
STERLING
STERLING SILVER
925/1000 FINE

Table Spoon
Nos. 42 and 53

Dessert Spoon
Nos. 28 and 36

Pap Spoon

Soup Spoon

Bouillon Spoon

Sugar Spoon

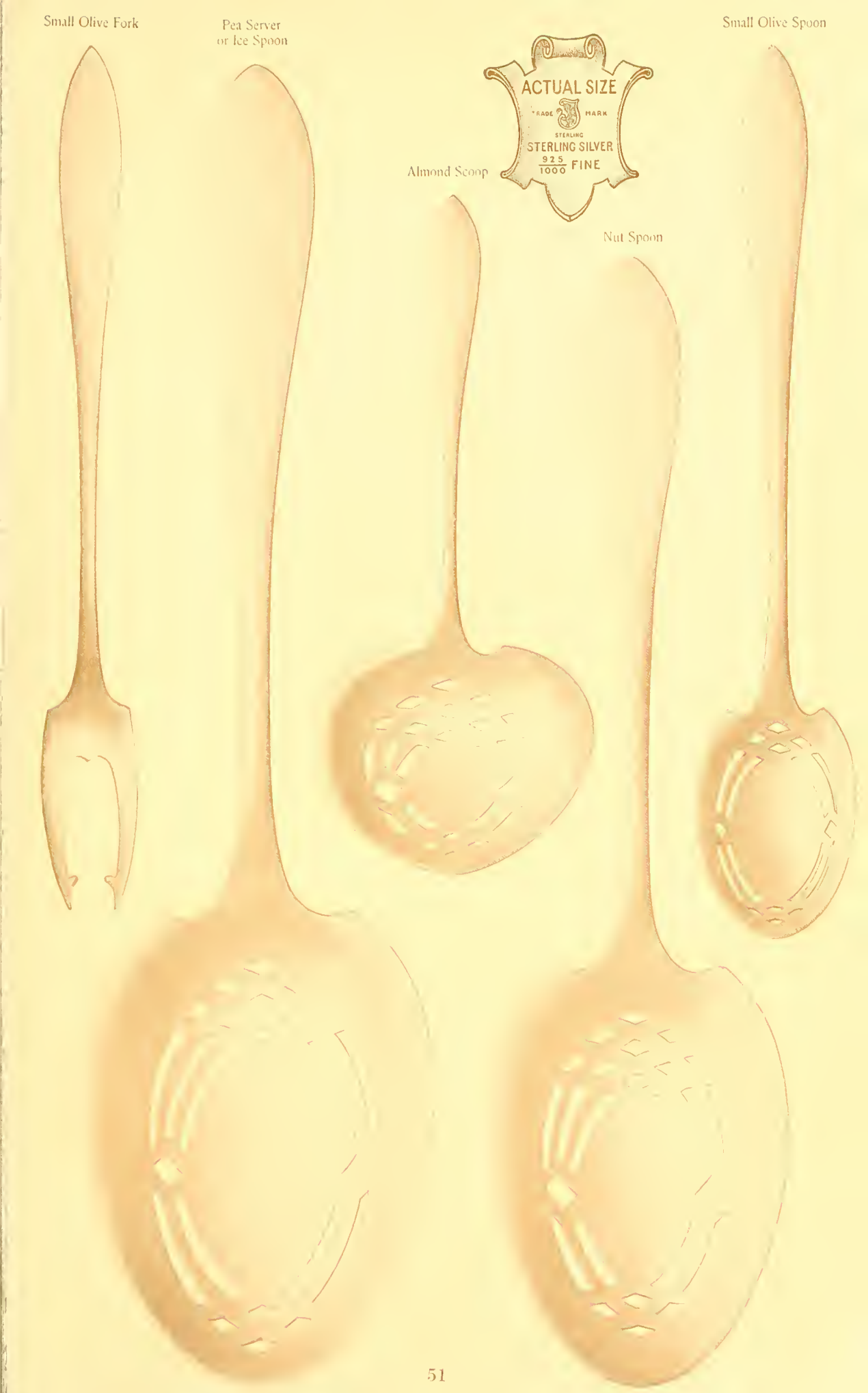
LA FAYETTE

Jelly Spoon

Berry Spoon

Ice Cream Spoon

Preserve Spoon


Small Olive Fork
Pea Server
or Ice Spoon
ACTUAL SIZE
TRADE MARK
STERLING
STERLING SILVER
925/1000 FINE
Small Olive Spoon
Almond Scoop
Nut Spoon

Gravy Ladle
Salt Spoon
Oyster Ladle
Mustard Spoon

LA
FAYETTE
Soup Ladle
Bouillon Ladle
Powdered Sugar Spoon
Cream Ladle

Confection Spoon

Vegetable Fork

Cucumber Server

LA FAYETTE

ACTUAL SIZE

TRADE MARK

STERLING

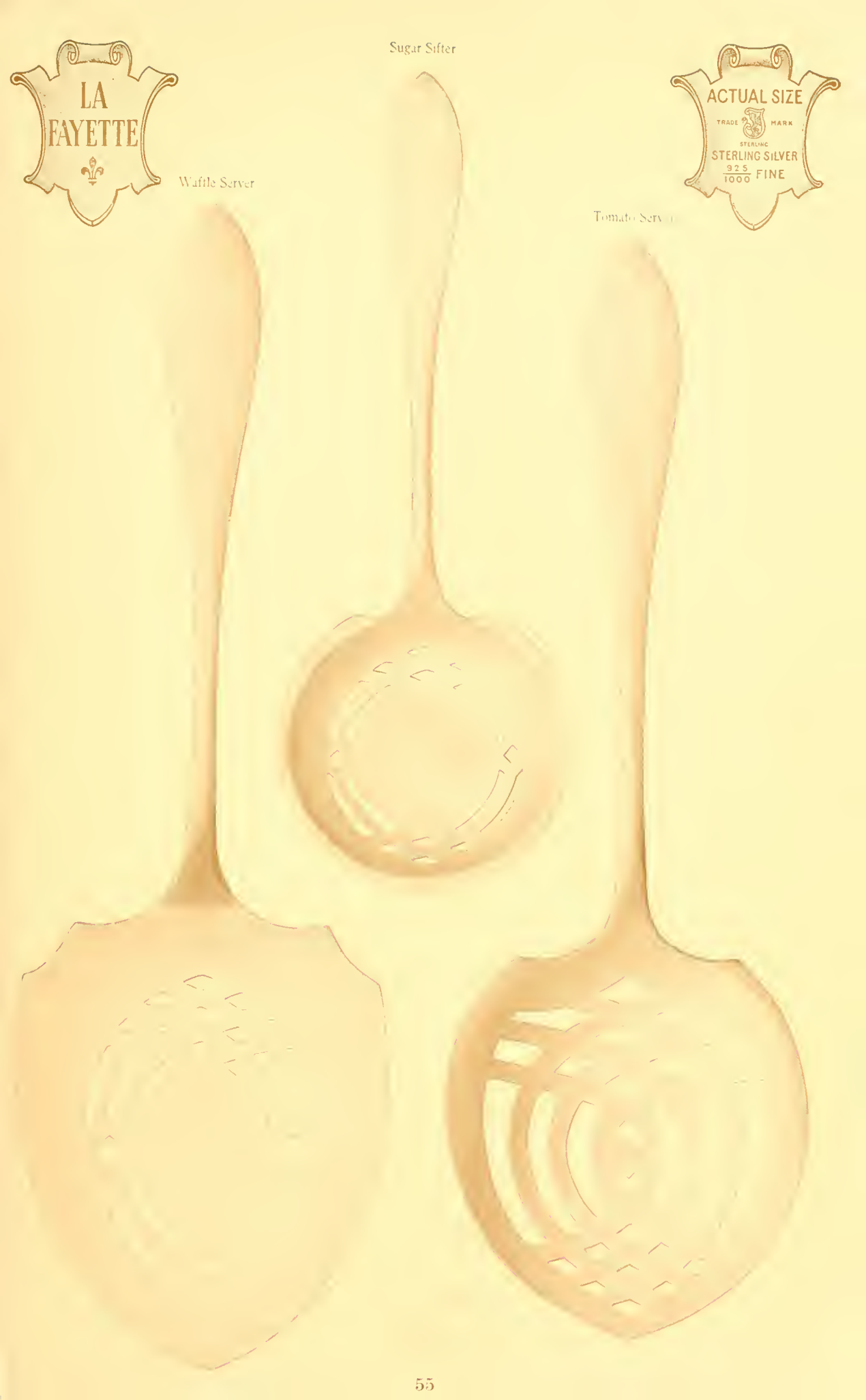
STERLING SILVER

925/1000 FINE

Sugar Sifter

Waffle Server

Tomato Server



Olive Fork

Lettuce Fork

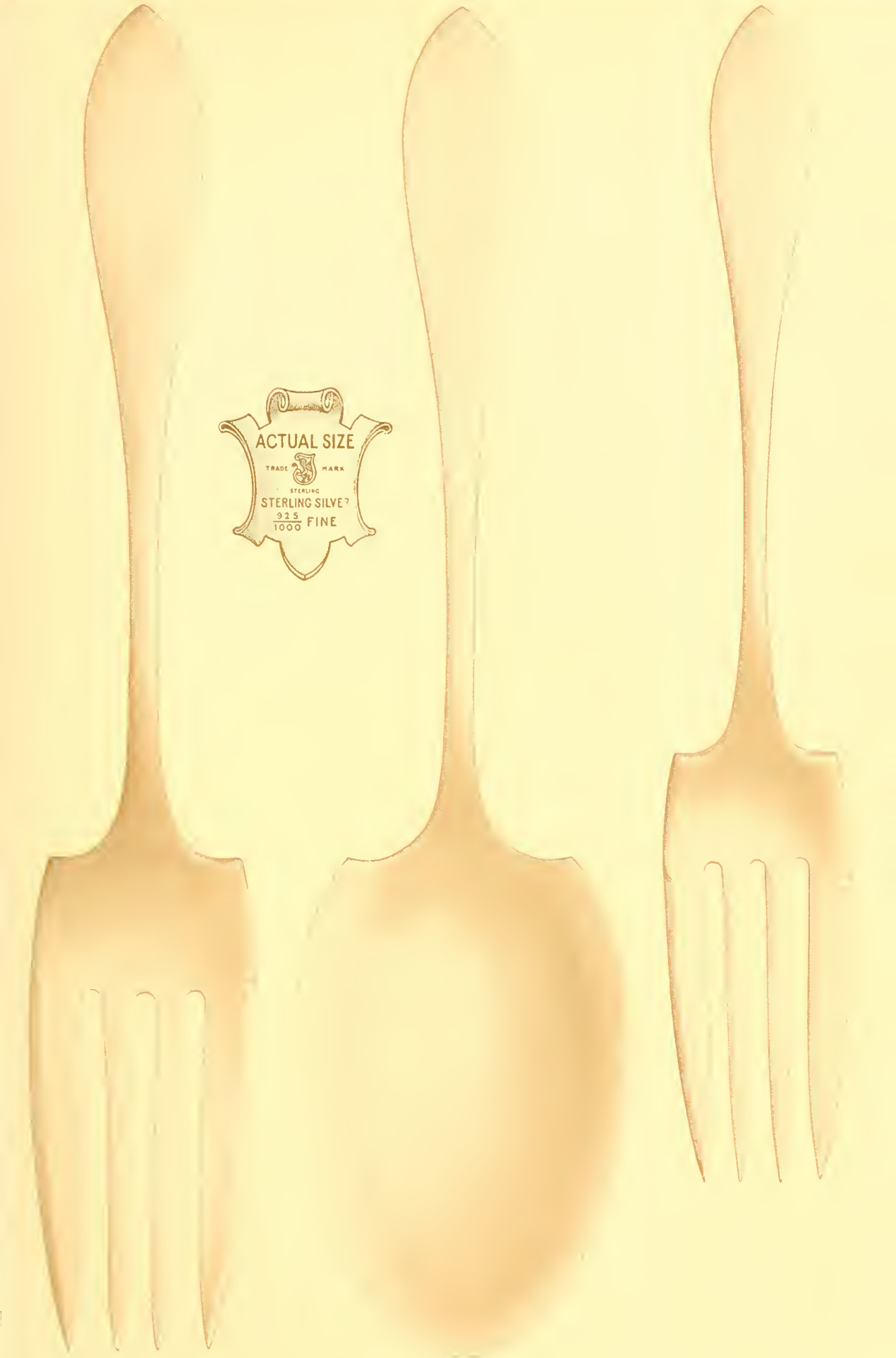
Lettuce Spoon

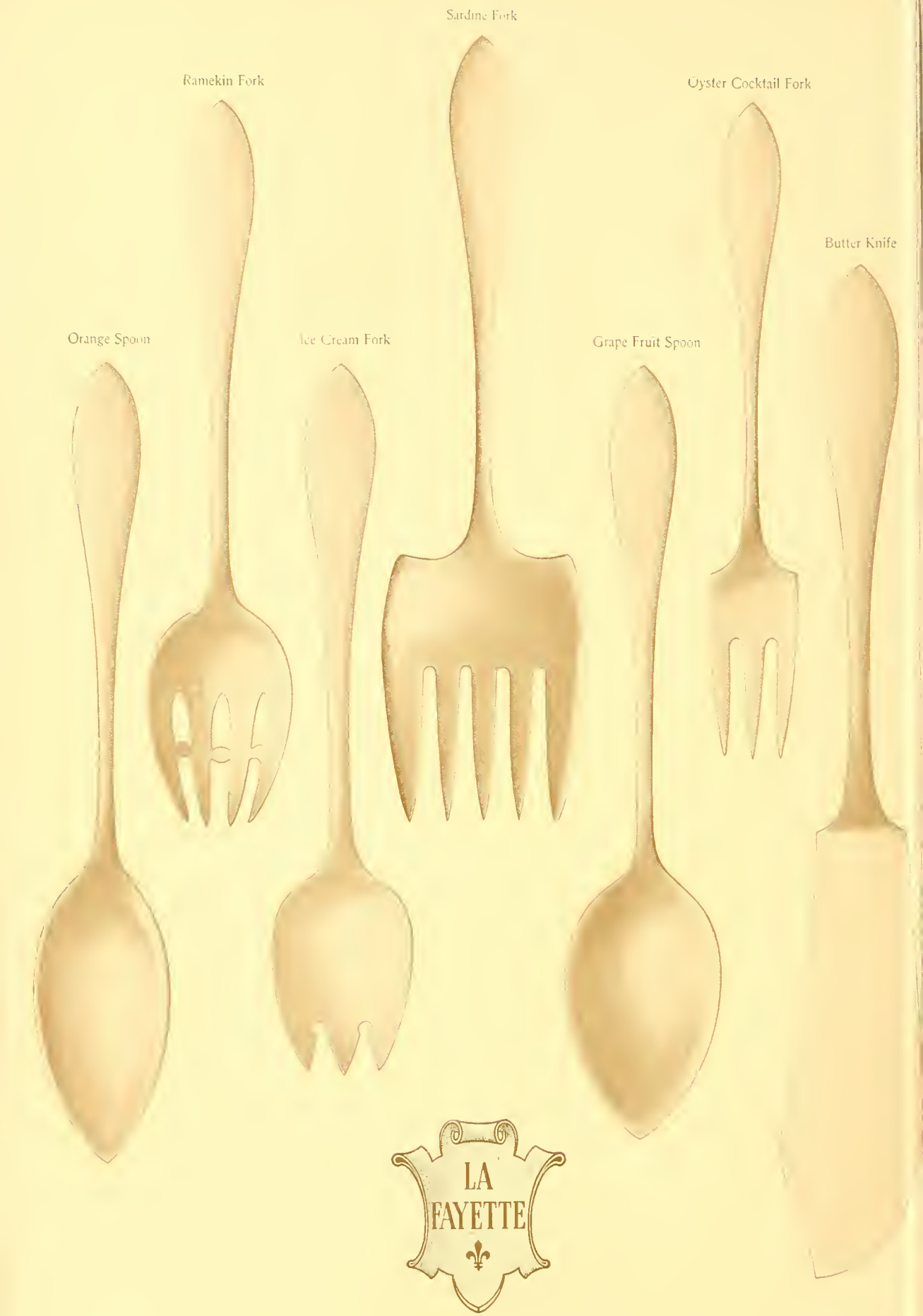
Olive Spoon

Salad Fork

Salad Spoon

Cold Meat Fork




Sardine Fork
Ramekin Fork
Oyster Cocktail Fork
Butter Knife
Orange Spoon
Ice Cream Fork
Grape Fruit Spoon
LA
FAYETTE

Horse Radish Spoon
Chow Chow Fork
Berry Fork
Butter Pick
Iced Tea Spoon
Food Pusher
Oyster Fork
ACTUAL SIZE
TRADE MARK
STERLING
STERLING SILVER
925/1000 FINE

Cracker Scoop

Pastry Fork

Individual Fish Fork

Pickle Fork

Beef Fork, small

Individual
Salad Fork, small

Beef Fork, large

Individual
Salad Fork, large

Roast Holder, large

Game Shears

Meat Fork
Meat Carver
(Length 15¾ inches)
Steel
Length 14⅜ inches)
Game Fork
Game Carver
ACTUAL SIZE
TRADE MARK
STERLING
STERLING SILVER
925/1000 FINE

Tea Knife
Dessert Knife
Medium Knife
Steak Fork
Steak Steel
Steak Carver
ACTUAL SIZE
TRADE MARK
STERLING
STERLING SILVER
925/1000 FINE

Fruit Knife, H. H.
Plated Steel Blade

Fruit Fork, H. H.
Plated Steel Tines

Child's Spoon

Child's Knife

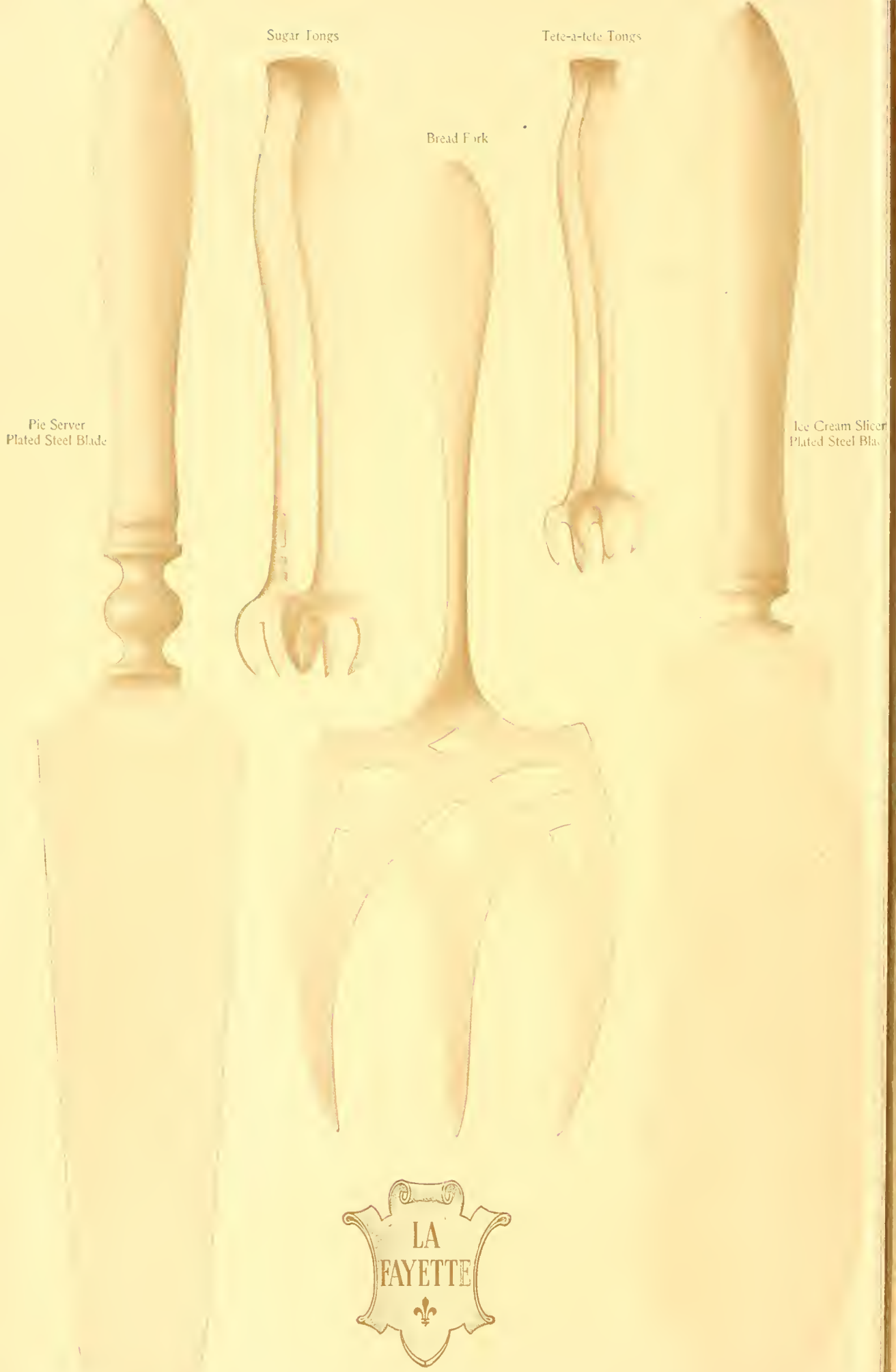
Child's Fork

Cheese Scoop, H. H.
Plated Scoop.

LA FAYETTE

Butter Spreader, Flat

Butter Spreader, H. H.


Sugar Tongs
Tete-a-tete Tongs
Bread Fork
Pie Server
Plated Steel Blade
Ice Cream Slicer
Plated Steel Bla

LA FAYETTE

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